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'Swiss banks undervalue unclaimed Holocaust accounts'

BATSHEVA TSUR, MARILYN HENRY, and news agencies

JEWISH leaders said yesterday they have doubts about claims by Swiss banks that they only hold some 38.7 million Swiss francs (\$32.3 million) in unclaimed accounts apparently owned by Holocaust victims.

The figure is much lower than previous estimates, which ran into hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars.

"Twenty or 30 years ago they said they had less than 10 million ... and now they found 30 million," Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg told The Associated Press. "Let's wait another 30 years and see what they come up with."

The Swiss Bankers' Association said Wednesday that 51 banks in Switzerland and Liechtenstein are holding deposits from before May 8, 1945, in accounts which have been dormant since or for more than 10 years. Eleven minor banks were unable to "positively deny" that such assets might have been deposited, said Jean-Paul Chapuis, a member of the association's board.

"The rumors about huge assets hidden in Swiss banks belonging to Holocaust victims are totally unfounded," Chapuis added. He said the figures reflect the final outcome of a survey of 400 banks, and that not all the reported dormant accounts necessarily belong to Holocaust victims.

Swiss President Edgar Brossard negotiated for months with Swiss bankers, who had agreed to cooperate with their organizations in tracking down the financial assets.

Calling it "a question of decency," Burg said the bankers broke their promise when they made Wednesday's announcement without consultation.

It had earlier been agreed with the association that the process of locating financial assets and properties - and the eligibility of Holocaust survivors and their families to receive them - would be "transparent" and open in order to prevent any doubts.

"The Swiss Bankers' Association did not fulfill this promise," said a statement issued by Burg and Brossard. "The matter was handled without the cooperation of all involved parties. Hence there are doubts. We wonder - what do they have to hide?"

They added that they are awaiting a more suitable response. "Fifty years after the fact, we would expect a bit more sensitivity from the Swiss Bankers' Association and the Swiss government," the Jewish leaders said.

Silvia Matile, spokeswoman for the Swiss Bankers' Association, expressed surprise over the reaction of the Jewish organizations.

"No one can seriously assert that we don't take the victims seriously," she said. She said the association has continued to consult regularly with the organizations and regrets that they appear uninterested in a further dialogue.

The association's president, Georg Krayer, said that since bank accounts are not marked according to a client's racial or religious background, the figures which spoke of billions were "utter fantasy" and based largely on assumptions, the Bloomberg news agency reported.

(Continued on Page 22)

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Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu (left) and Tsomet chairman Rafael Eitan exchange initialed copies of their alignment pact in Tel Aviv yesterday. Story, Page 2.

'Yediot's' Vardi, Ben-Ari to be indicted

RAINE MARCUS

YEDIOT *Aharonot* editor Moshe Vardi and news editor Ruth Ben-Ari will be indicted on three charges of wiretapping by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court early next week, the Justice Ministry announced yesterday.

Police sources said the charges relate to commissioning wiretapping on the phone of former *Yediot* editor-in-chief Dov Yudkovsky after he moved to *Ma'ariv*; attempting to bug the phone of graphic artist Orit Lipsitz, whom Vardi suspected of leaking information; and listening to an illegally recorded conversation between *Yediot* publisher Aron Mozes and *Ma'ariv* publisher Ofer Nimrodi.

Vardi was unavailable for comment, and it is still not known whether he will resign, but

this latest indictment is likely to cause a upheaval at *Yediot*. Ben-Ari left her job as news editor this week after a three-year term, but will be assuming another post at the paper.

Last Friday, State Attorney Edna Arbel met with Tel Aviv District Attorney Miriam Rosenthal to decide on the charges, based on police recommendations. According to *Ma'ariv*, Vardi underwent a pre-indictment hearing last week.

Vardi's name first surfaced when private investigator Rafi Friedan (on trial on some 53 counts of wiretapping, many on behalf of Nimrodi) told Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court that he knew that Vardi and Ben-Ari commis-

sioned a tap on Yudkovsky's phone.

Last summer, Vardi and Ben-Ari were arrested. They later volunteered additional information to police following a civil suit filed by Yudkovsky.

Information implicating Vardi and Ben-Ari was given to police by Friedan, Ya'acov Bak (currently serving a prison sentence for attempted murder); Amir Ben-Asher (on trial on the same charges); Hani Mizaki (currently on trial with Friedan); and Ya'acov Tsur (Friedan's former partner, who turned state's evidence against Nimrodi and others).

According to the police, Vardi and Ben-Ari commissioned Bak and Ben-Asher to bug phones. The tapping was carried out by Friedan, Tsur, and Mizaki.

Peres to call early election on Sunday

SARAH HONG

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres might announce his decision to hold early elections on Sunday, Labor sources said yesterday.

They report that Peres's close associates advise that he make the early elections announcement everyone expects as soon as possible, because his failure to do so at this point damages his credibility.

Peres continues to maintain that his mind is not yet made up, saying only that his decision will be announced by February 15 at the latest.

The prime minister consulted at length yesterday with his early elections team to weigh the feasibility of the different dates and the possible legal ramifications of the different alternatives. Labor sources were again betting last night that elections will take place on May 28, a day after they said their money was on June 4.

Conferring with Peres last night were his party's secretary-general, Nissim Zvilli, Interior Minister Haim Ramon, and Justice Minister David Liba'i. They discussed how to call for early elections and when to schedule them.

Peres was advised not to postpone his early elections announcement any longer, as it has become a laughing matter with a public well aware that the decision to go to early elections had been taken weeks ago. What is happening now appears like pre-

tense and is bad for Peres's image, it was argued.

Ramon and Liba'i were each asked to prepare reports from their ministries' perspectives on the problems involved with various election dates. It was agreed that there must be enough time to allow for new parties to register, a procedure which in itself takes 92 days. Any election date which does not allow sufficient time could, in Liba'i's opinion, result in a High Court ruling against that date.

As things appeared yesterday, according to Labor sources, the favorite date again is May 28. This was the date, they said, which had been repeatedly mentioned in last night's meeting as the one with the least problems attached to it and the date about which most of the probes and the discussions centered.

Analytical attention was also paid, however, to May 21 and June 4, indicating that they had not been entirely erased from the Labor calendar.

Zvilli asserted last night that "the date had not yet been picked. Peres did not mention a date he prefers to anyone. Despite all the talk, the decision just had not been made yet."

The Likud complained yesterday that Labor intends to hand down a *fait accompli* without even going through the motions of consulting with the opposition prior to fixing the new elections date, as is the custom.

Labor MK Avigdor Kahalani, (Continued on Page 22)

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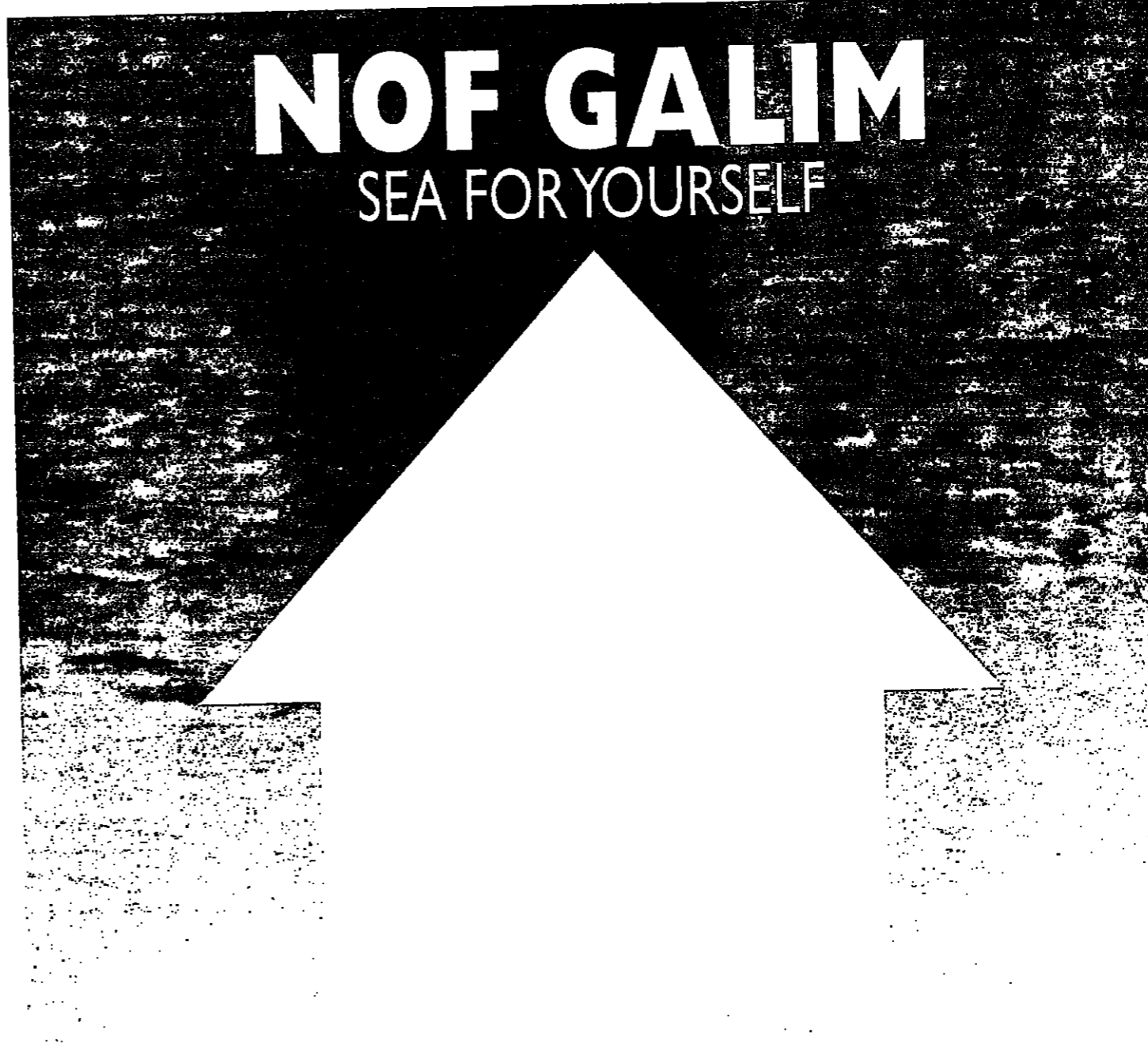
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Likud, Tsomet initial joint Knesset pact

SARAH HONIG

WITH a champagne toast, the agreement between the Likud and Tsomet was initiated yesterday, after the Knesset factions of both parties gave their approval to the fielding of a joint ticket in the upcoming elections.

Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu and Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan held a joint press conference after the signing ceremony.

On Tuesday, the Likud faction had rejected the agreement, demanding that Netanyahu obtain a firmer undertaking from Tsomet not to leave the list to join with the opposition. The changes were made to the agreement on Wednesday.

The agreement itself cannot be signed until 90 days before the elections, according to election laws, when it will then be subject to the approval of the two parties' central committees. This will be a mere formality, as both Netanyahu and Eitan are powerful enough to get the agreement passed.

Netanyahu described the agreement as "heralding a new era in the national camp. In recent years we have known too much division in that camp, a fact which cost us the last election. Now that the national camp's two largest parties have joined in a

single ticket, this signals a real revolution."

According to Netanyahu, "The choice now is between the left — which will withdraw from every centimeter of the Golan, cause the redrawing of Jerusalem, and create a Palestinian state next to Israel's densest population centers — and the national camp — which will leave the Golan in Israel's hands, prevent any division of Jerusalem, and allow only Arab self-rule in some locations, but not a Palestinian state."

Eitan said, "This alliance is not only intended for the elections, but also beyond it. We are not making contingency plans in the event of an electoral defeat, because we aim to win."

Jim adds:

After signing the joint agreement, Likud and Tsomet signed another deal yesterday — with haredi public relations agent David Zilberschlag, who will run the Likud-Tsomet campaign among the haredi public. Last week, there were reports that Zilberschlag was negotiating to work for the same purpose for the Labor Party. Prime Minister Shimon Peres was apparently pressured by an aide to end contacts with Zilberschlag, who had reportedly already prepared a campaign for the Labor Party.

Eitan attacks press

SARAH HONIG

TSOMET head Rafael Eitan lashed out at reporters who came to yesterday's party faction meeting in Tel Aviv, before the agreement with the Likud was signed.

Eitan was reviewing the details of the agreement when he suddenly began attacking the press, accusing it of trying to foil the pact. Eitan attacked *Yedioth Aharnot* correspondent Bina Barzel, whose paper's headline yesterday said that Tsomet had buckled to Likud pressure.

Eitan told Barzel he "would take care of her." "When Yeha'el Tal of *Ha'aretz* complained, Eitan ordered all the reporters out. He later likened the reporters to "maligners who are like the dogs who bark at all they see. We will continue on our path till their barking ceases." Eitan afterwards apologized "if anyone's feelings were hurt." He thought the incident was minor: "Not exactly a cluster bomb, more like a cap gun."



The two rivals to head the National Religious Party, former prisoner of Zion Yosef Mendelovitch (l) and Zevulun Hammer, shake hands yesterday before squaring off in the party's central committee vote.

Hammer easily reelected NRP leader

HERB KEINON

NATIONAL Religious Party head Zevulun Hammer was reelected to a second consecutive term last night, easily out-polling former prisoner of Zion Yosef Mendelovitch in central committee member balloting at Tel Aviv's Beit Hahayal.

Hammer took 78 percent of the vote, with Mendelovitch receiving 22 percent. Some 824 ballots were cast, accounting for about 90 percent of the party's central committee.

"The leadership of the party, including the Knesset members, let it be known that they think I should stand at the head of the party, and for that reason did not put forth their own candidacy," Hammer said before the results were made known late last night. "Even if he [Mendelovitch] gets a few votes, it is not because they think he should lead the party, but for a variety of other reasons."

Mendelovitch ran a campaign on the slogan: "Change, modernization, and internal democracy."

"We called 1,100 members of the central

committee," Mendelovitch said, "and many people felt despair that there is no democracy in the party."

Mendelovitch is considered to be on the party's far right, while Hammer is considered one of the party's moderates.

Last night's elections were only for the party head, who will also lead the NRP's Knesset list. The rest of the list will be selected by the central committee in elections scheduled for the end of March. Some 20 people are running for the Knesset, including Jerusalem city councilman Shmuel Meir, Gaza Coast Regional Council head Zvi Hendel, and Elkana Local Council head Nissan Slomianski.

This is the first time the party has picked its leader in elections separate from elections for the Knesset list. "We decided to pick our party head separately, because that is the way all the parties are doing it," said NRP spokesman Yitzhak Rath.

Zevulun Orlev, the party's political secretary, said other leading figures in the party did not challenge Hammer, because of the realization that Hammer had the best chance of uniting the party's different factions.

Rath said that none of the possible challengers, like Haiman Potot or Avner Shaki, thought they had a chance of beating Hammer, and so decided to "save their strength for the battle to get on the Knesset list."

One party official said that the ease with which Hammer has held onto the party's top position is not an attempt to put forward a moderate face for the election following the Rabin assassination. "Hammer's election was assured before the assassination," the official said.

Yesterday's polling took place without any speeches or public debates. The various Knesset hopefuls, however, took advantage of the fact that so many central committee members were present and actively canvassed for their votes in the March poll.

Arab Movement for Change trying to form big Arab bloc

DAVID RUDGE

THE Israeli Arab Progressive Movement for Peace Party (PMP), which failed to win a Knesset seat in 1992, is in contact with other groups in the Israeli sector.

A delegation from the Islamic Arab List, led by Sheikh A'raf Hatib, is due to meet with Tibi in Taiba today. Hatib's list is unofficially affiliated with the Islamic Movement and Hatib has close ties with its spiritual head, Sheikh Abdullah Nimr Darweesh.

If the Islamic Arab List also decides to join the proposed bloc, led by Tibi, it would be a major breakthrough in helping to win the support of tens of thousands of followers of the Islamic Movement.

Tibi, senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, described the move as "a very important step" in his efforts to forge a large Arab bloc to run in the next elections. His own movement, set to be declared a party next month, is also in contact with other groups in the Israeli sector.

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Aloni rejects overtures to return to Meretz

COMMUNICATIONS

Shulamit Aloni yesterday left the door open for Aloni with an open-ended proposal. "We invite her to return to the party leadership and to the party's election campaign. She herself will have to choose the sort of activity and the sphere of activity which she deems appropriate," he said.

But Aloni demonstratively stayed away from the executive session, and dispatched a letter to each of the executive members, in which she maintained that she "had not taken the step I had with an eye to winning an honorary first slot on the party's Knesset list." She reiterated her resolve not to return to Meretz politics.

A similar message was relayed to the Meretz executive, which convened shortly after the CRM executive meeting had concluded.

The Meretz executive yesterday echoed the CRM executive in appealing to Aloni to take part in the Meretz leadership and campaign. The executive elected Sarid to head its campaign.

A day earlier, she had rejected an idea from the CRM that she accept top billing on the Meretz slate, but that her role be confined to that of an elder stateswoman, with the real power in Sarid's hands; though he would be in the second slot.

Meretz is seeking ways to mollify Aloni, judging that even if she does not field a new ticket, her angry departure from the Meretz ticket would only harm the party's electoral prospects, which, according to the polls, are

Amital charms American Jewish leaders

MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK

MINISTER without Portfolio Yehuda Amital charmed New York Jewish leaders yesterday, expressing sympathy for efforts to promote religious pluralism and then suggesting it is unlikely to happen.

Amital, the peripatetic rabbi with non-stop meetings in New York and Washington, was warmly received yesterday at events with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and with leaders of the Conservative movement.

He was to participate last night in a so-called "unity forum" at a Manhattan Orthodox synagogue. He dismissed Orthodox rabbis who said his attendance at the forum would bestow recognition of the Reform and Conservative movements. "I am a rabbi, a roshi yeshiva. Some rabbis send letters saying not to listen to me," Amital told the Presidents Conference. "I fear God, not the rabbis."

In a talk sprinkled with references to his role as a teacher, he told the conference, "I don't believe that by coercion, religious legislation, we bring people closer to Torah."

He pleased a number of conference members with a strong grasp of the organization of American Jewish life and an implicit recognition of the different streams of Judaism. "Here there are no secular," he told the Americans. "They are not secular; they are religious in a different kind of way."

However, he warned that American models of Jewish life could not be exported to Israel. Rather, he said, Israeli models would have to be developed.

Floods close Arava road

DOZENS of cars were trapped on the Arava road yesterday, as floods caused its closure and cut Eilat off from the rest of the country.

A police helicopter had to pluck three people off the roof of a car caught in a flooded Nahal Paran.

Some 50 people on jeep tours were also waiting for flood waters to recede. They were in eye contact with members of the Arava Civil Guard's rescue team, which was prevented from reaching them by the swirling water.

The Negev and Arava were buffeted by heavy sandstorms in the morning, then by rain, sometimes accompanied by hail, which began in the afternoon. (Hm)

CORRECTION

Yesterday's story, "US hopeful Israel, Syria can reach water arrangement," erroneously named Syria as the builder of the Southeast Anatolia Development Project dams. The dams were built by Turkey.

CLARIFICATION

MK Eliezer Zandberg (Tsomet) is in Tunisia for a meeting of the Council of Europe with the PLO, and not as reported yesterday.

Winning numbers and cards

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 297223 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 589644 won a car.

Tickets numbered 864904, 860509, 587052, 167410, 676906, 489703, 359908 and 452369 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 85338, 90260, 12655, 35646, 51712, 22590, 42079, 24184, 25615, 15604, 46849, 99334, 37865, 49743, 99660 48176, 25859, 57248 and 40121 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 690, 885, 532, 621, and 931 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 07, 86, 40, 42 and 60 won NIS 24. Tickets ending in 9 and 4 won NIS 8.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, ace of hearts, seven of diamonds and nine of clubs.

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Kiryat Arba condemns residents trying to leave

HERB KEINON

LEAFLETS signed by the Kiryat Arba Local Council appeared yesterday in the settlement accusing residents who organized to get compensation from the government to leave the settlement of stabbing the community in the back.

The leaflet, signed by the local council's political committee and placed in all the mail boxes, read: "The formation of a vocal interest and pressure group, well covered by the press, at a time when the fate of the region will be decided represents a stab in the back."

The leaflet calls on those in the group "not to spit in the well from which they drink. All the residents of Kiryat Arba receive a great deal from the [Kiryat Arba] establishment, from the community, and from the spiritual and cultural atmosphere. Therefore, if they want to leave, they should do so in an honorable manner and continue to be grateful for the good years they had

here."

The political committee, made up of the members of Kiryat Arba's local council, as well as public figures such as Elyakim Ha'etzi, Noam Arnon, and rabbi Eliezer Waldman and Moshe Levinger, wrote in the leaflet that a high percentage of the group that wants to leave is made up of people who left the community years ago, and who are just looking for a way to make money.

"Lies," responds Sima Mizrahi, the organizer of the group. "Of a list of well over 200 families, only four families left Kiryat Arba after the massacre at the Machpela Cave."

Mizrahi said that the leaflet shows that the council is concerned about a mass exodus from the community.

"The leaflet is proof that the local council is worried," she said. "If local council head Zvi

Katzover would have put half as much energy in getting rid of the extremists in Kiryat Arba as he has in fighting us, then the community would look a lot different," she said.

Peace Now, meanwhile, sent a letter to Interior Minister Haim Ramon asking him to disband the local council and appoint a committee to run the city.

"It appears that during a year when the prime minister was killed, and two days before we commemorate the 13th anniversary of the murder of Emil Grunzweig, there is no need to explain the dangers in expressions like 'stab in the back,'" wrote Mossy Raz, Peace Now's political secretary and a candidate in the upcoming Meretz primaries.

Tsuri Popovitch, a spokesman for the Kiryat Arba council, dismissed the call to set up a committee as "ridiculous" and as just another attempt by Peace Now to harm the settlement.



Judge Gavriel Strasman, left, police Insp. Yaron London and lawyer Moshe Aloni confer in Sheba Hospital yesterday at the remand hearing of cabbie Herzl Noah, who is suspected of trying to murder his estranged wife. (Ilan Orenstein/Israel Sun)

Man remanded for wife's attempted murder

RAJNE MARCUS

TEL AVIV Magistrate's Court Judge Gavriel Strasman went to Sheba Hospital yesterday for the remand hearing of cabbie Herzl Noah, who is suspected of trying to murder his estranged wife on Sunday. He was hospitalized Tuesday after apparently trying to commit suicide.

Noah, heavily guarded by police, denied all connection to the crime. While police requested a 15-day remand, Strasman ordered him held for eight days.

According to police and eyewitnesses, Noah entered the Ramat Hasharon leather goods store last Sunday where his wife,

Orly, worked, fired five shots, and then fled on foot.

Orly Noah was taken to the hospital suffering from head and chest wounds, and although she has now regained consciousness, she will lose an eye and will have to undergo rehabilitation.

Noah was found slumped over the wheel of a rented car on Tuesday by a passerby. He had taken a large amount of tranquilizers and painkillers in an apparent suicide bid. The overdose damaged his liver, and doctors decided after pumping his stomach to

keep him in the hospital.

But defense lawyers Moshe Aloni and Eh Cohen claimed that Noah was not involved in the shooting, and his disappearance after the attempted murder was because he was depressed after hearing about it.

"Just as Orly's first husband and current boyfriend were released by police after questioning, Noah should also be released on bail," the lawyers said.

Aloni and Cohen requested, alternatively, that Noah should be placed under house arrest or

be remanded for fewer days.

Inspector Yaron London said that police have evidence, apart from eyewitness statements, linking Noah to the shooting. The gun used in the shooting has still not been found.

Police found a bloodstain on Noah's shirt, but the lawyers argued that their client vomited after taking the overdose of pills. The source of the blood stain is being investigated by police.

Givatayim resident Orly Noah, 35, left her husband three months ago and filed several complaints to police that her husband had threatened her.

PA Police detains Israeli in Nablus

HERB KEINON

PALESTINIAN police detained an Israeli visiting a friend near Nablus early yesterday morning, the third time in two weeks the Palestinian Police has arrested Israelis in the territories.

Haim Asayag, a resident of Bracha in Samaria, went to visit a Palestinian friend and business associate in Balata. On his way home at about midnight, he said, about 10 Palestinian policemen blocked his way and told him to follow them to their police station.

"They asked me for my identification card, and told me to follow them," said Asayag, 28, who was not armed. "When I told them that, according to the agreement, they had no authority to take me to the station, but

must call the District Coordinating Office and wait for a joint Palestinian-Israeli patrol, they got angry and told me not to tell them about the agreement, that they know the agreement."

Asayag's friends went with him to the police station, but there the Palestinians split them up. Asayag said he was interrogated by three policemen, with two of them treating him well, while one - who was not in uniform - was very harsh.

"He shouted at me that he knows the accord, and that I am not to dictate to him what to do," Asayag said. "I was terrified and humiliated."

At one point, Asayag said, he

was sent into a hall where other Palestinians were waiting. "I felt their hatred, and was scared to death," he said.

Asayag, who speaks Arabic, said that no one told him why he was detained, but that he heard plainclothes officers in the corridors say that they "want to show me how they have felt all these years, having been picked up, interrogated, and beaten by Israelis."

As Asayag was waiting in the hall, he saw a police officer he knew, who had him released. The police escorted him to a joint patrol, and from there he went to the DCO.

The IDF has lodged a complaint with the Palestinian Authority over the incident.

PA election fraud allegations reach appeals court

JON IMMANUEL

THREE weeks after the Palestinian elections, assertions of fraud by candidates and Palestinian observers have now reached the election appeals court.

Mustafa Barghouti, of the People's Party, who narrowly lost, led the petition by 23 losing Ramallah candidates after the central election commission dismissed his charges of fraud.

In another case, the appeals court on Wednesday permitted Mohammed Akasheh, a losing candidate in North Gaza, to look at the official vote tabulations from each of the boxes in which he suspected irregularities. However, many, like Barghouti, suspect the official tabulations are themselves tainted.

Barghouti said he doubts he will win his case, but "This is a test for the appeals court [four judges appointed by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat] and we are doing it to strengthen democracy... We were hoping to see a real opposition emerge in this council, but it is evident it will have to act outside the council."

Had he won a seat, Barghouti would have been the only representative running from a non-Fatah PLO faction to sit in the council. He lost narrowly to Fatah's most prominent candidate in Ramallah, his cousin Marwan Barghouti, Fatah's West Bank secretary-general, for whom defeat would have been a significant humiliation.

Barghouti told a press conference that the international observers "looked through

colonialist eyes and, seeing that there was no killing or violence, thought it was fair. This is the level of our democracy."

Few claims of fraud have been actually proven, but suspicions of irregularities abound.

One clear case of ballot-stuffing led to a revote in two Jabalya polling stations last week, and the result only compounded confusion. Imad Falouji, a recent Hamas convert to Fatah, who narrowly lost the first time to independent Khader Abu Nada, also lost in the revote, yet still took Abu Nada's seat.

According to Israel's Peace Watch observers, this indicated there had been a retabulation of votes from other ballot boxes; but why, how, and by whom was unknown.

Akasheh, who also lost after the revote, insisted 400 votes were stolen from him. He petitioned the appeals court and was allowed to look at the official vote counts from each box.

Ziv Hellman, Peace Watch's main observer, said the only way to judge fraud is to reopen the official tabulations "and compare them with notes taken by observers."

In six out of 10 protocols that Peace Watch had seen there were significant differences between them and unofficial counts. There 1697 polling stations.

Hellman said "there was no indication of a special direction" in the inconsistencies, and that he "has no evidence of fraud," but in the most suspicious case, in a Hebron ballot, the central election committee awarded 55 votes to a candidate whom all observers said had received five votes.

Meanwhile, a group of Palestinian observers, appointed by the Land and Water Establishment, has added Jericho to North Gaza, Hebron, and Ramallah as a haven of fraud.

Jericho had one seat, which was won as expected by Saeb Erekat, a favorite son, who chaired the commission which formulated the election system. Former US president Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalyn, who visited Jericho on election day, praised the sight of voters patiently waiting in line.

However, Saeb's uncle, Daoud Erekat, an aging member of the People's Party who returned almost blind from 26 years exile in 1993, charged fraud immediately after the results were published.

"Many police voted twice," Daoud Erekat said. "The police also offered money before the elections. All five losing candidates are appealing. In my case, because we have the same name, my votes were easily transferred to my nephew in the counting," something that might also have happened in the confrontation between Mustafa and Marwan Barghouti, Erekat said.

PA denies killing Jihad activists

JON IMMANUEL

THE Palestinian Authority yesterday upheld its original claim that two Islamic Jihad gunmen were killed in a shootout last Friday in Gaza by their own explosives and by police bullets after they opened fire on police who chanced upon them.

The police have come under attack by Islamic radicals for carrying out a liquidation at the behest of Israel to prove they are tough on terrorists, a claim the PA strongly denies.

The family denies the official report, but Jihad activists in the area have revealed one fact that the police have not: The two men were involved in the Beit Lid double-suicide bombing which killed 20 IDF soldiers and a civilian a year ago. They suspect police operated on information provided by Israeli security authorities, which captured an operative in the Beit Lid attack and could have supplied the names of his accomplices.

PA Attorney-General Khalid Qidrah said yesterday that an external examination of the bodies - all the families would allow - confirmed the police version that "one died from an explosion and another by gunfire. It was clear that one died by an explosive device he held in his hand. The fragments are evident in the walls. Other weapons were seized," he said.

Eymad Ruzneih, 25, father of three, and Amar Arraj, 27, were killed in a four-room apartment on the ground-floor of a house in a narrow alley of Shati refugee camp.

Members of the two families who were present at the external autopsy said the men were shot by nine and 11 bullets apiece and never opened fire on police. Fifteen plainclothes police arrested the house owner and then came back indicating they were looking for someone else, the families said.

'Israel killed Egyptian POWs for body parts'

THE "hot" story in the Egyptian press this week was that Egyptian prisoners of war held in POW camps in Israel were murdered and their body parts sold.

Writing in the popular daily *Al-Ahram*, Dr. Said Lavandi reports on a conversation with a Jewish merchant in Paris, who told him that he had within his body a kidney that had been transplanted from the body of an Egyptian POW.

According to Lavandi's account of what the merchant said, the camps were used as "a market for human body parts."

The report said that Israeli soldiers guarding the camps used Egyptian POWs as "human targets, both to get rid of them and because they received a high price for their body parts." (Itim)

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 Worldwide Song Contest for Jewish Youth will take place in Israel at the Jerusalem Convention Center on August 6, 1996.

Jewish youth from all over the world will take part, representing their community or association. Participants will sing in their mother tongue; the songs are being written specially for this contest. If you are interested in participating, get details from your association or community.

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DON'T MISS IT!

Mental patient raped and murdered

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Police deny attempt to conceal assassination foul-ups

BILL HUTMAN

TEL Aviv police chief Cmdr. Gabi Last and Asst.-Cmdr. Ya'acov Shoval appeared before the Shamgar Commission yesterday. They strongly rejected allegations that an internal police report on the security arrangements the night of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination had been withheld from the commission in an attempt to cover up police failures.

This charge had been made by lawyers for several of the General Security Service agents being investigated by the commission, after the police submitted the report to the commission earlier this week.

The report consists of the transcribed minutes of a meeting of police brass several days after the assassination, at which the security arrangements were reviewed, according to sources close to the commission.

The lawyers also alleged that officers from the Tel Aviv and Yarkon Districts may have tried to coordinate their versions of events the night of the assassination, in hopes of putting blame for the security failures on the GSS.

The GSS lawyers had based their allegations in part on dialogue that was missing from the transcribed minutes of the police meeting. But the breaks turned out to have simply reflected the time when tapes were being changed, according to the sources.

Shoval turned over the transcripts, hoping they would help in his defense against allegations he was partially responsible for the security failures the night of the assassination.

According to the sources, Last said he did not believe the commission needed the police findings. Shoval noted that it was he who brought the report to the commission, and if there was anything in it to hide, he would not have done so.

The commission sharply criticized Last for not having turned over the police report sooner, the sources said.

Following Last and Shoval's hearings, former GSS head Karmi Gillon completed his testimony, reiterating his position that he should not be held personally accountable by the commission.

Gillon said that he was aware of the threat of an assassination attempt by a Jewish extremist, and had taken steps to prevent it. He said responsibility should be placed on those GSS officers directly responsible for VIP security, who had not taken action as he had instructed.

Mental patient raped and murdered

THE body of Sara Oron, 49, a patient at the Pardesiya Mental Hospital, was found in a citrus grove near Moshav Geulim in the Sharon yesterday afternoon. According to police, she had been raped and strangled.

Workers in the grove reported finding the body. Police said that when they arrived, they found the body naked from the waist down.

Oron had been missing from the hospital since Tuesday. Police said she may have been picked up while hitchhiking, and it is possible that whoever picked her up raped and killed her. (Dim)

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Supreme Court reduces Meshulam's sentence

Followers demand complete acquittal

EVELYN GORDON



Followers of Uzi Meshulam await the verdict of their appeal yesterday at the Supreme Court.

(Flash 90)

THE Supreme Court knocked 1 1/2 years off Uzi Meshulam's eight-year prison sentence yesterday, but his followers said that nothing less than a complete acquittal will satisfy them.

"The state is a criminal," said Meshulam's wife, Elisheva, after the verdict was announced. "If there is a real trial rather than a rigged one, he will be found innocent."

Mesulam "and his students are sitting in jail to put a lid on the affair," added Rabbi Yitzhak Lahaia, regarding the Yemenite children who allegedly disappeared during the early years of the state. Lahaia, along with other Meshulam followers, was handing out prepared statements comparing the trial to the Dreyfuss Affair. "Any verdict that isn't a complete acquittal is a lie," he said.

Lahaia charged that the government, the courts and the press are conspiring to paint the group as dangerous fanatics, saying, for instance, that it had been investigated for incitement for reprinting a caricature of Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal, which bothered no one when it first appeared in Ma'ariv. He denied that the group planned any injury to Shahal.

The reading of the verdict passed without incident, possibly due to heavy police presence. The defendants themselves seemed relaxed and happy, smiling and waving at friends in the public benches, and bursting into loud song as they were led out after hearing the verdict. Meshulam himself was not present.

The Tel Aviv District Court convicted Meshulam and 11 followers a year ago of criminal conspiracy, interfering with a policeman in the line of duty, attempted aggravated assault, extortion, endangering human life on the roads, and illegal weapons possession and manufacture.

The offenses were committed when the group barricaded itself in Meshulam's Yehud residence, in defiance of the police, for a month in the spring of 1994. The siege ended in a shoot-out. Meshulam personally was also convicted of attacking policemen, ordering one of his followers to

throw a firebomb at a policeman, firing at an old-age home, and obstructing justice. Meshulam was sentenced to eight years, while the others received sentences ranging from 15 months to five years.

In its appeal, the group argued that it did not get a fair trial, because they were not present for most of it, and the cross-examination was conducted by Judge Amnon Strashnov rather than their lawyers.

However, Justices Aharon Barak, Shlomo Levine, and Dalia Dorner unanimously rejected this claim, pointing out that this was entirely the group's own fault: it was the defendants who refused to come to the trial, though Strashnov pleaded with them to do so; and it was they who first fired their lawyers, and then, when Strashnov refused to release the attorneys, ordered the lawyers not to say anything in court.

The justices also unanimously rejected the argument that the group was acting in self-defense, or that the facts of the case had not been sufficiently proved.

However, Barak and Dorner, with Levine dissenting, acquitted both Meshulam and his "right-hand man," Avner Uzan, of one of the actions for which they had been convicted of attempted assault: a series of shots fired at a police helicopter, which took place after the two had already been taken into custody.

The partial acquittal was due to a change in the law which was passed six months after Strashnov's verdict. Under the old law, any member of a conspiracy could be held responsible for any act committed as part of the conspiracy, even if he personally did not commit that act.

Under the new law, however, someone can only be found guilty of acts in which he actually participated in some way. The majority justices ruled that since Meshulam and Uzan were not present then, they could not have planned or incited the shots at the helicopter.

The justices also unanimously acquitted Meshulam on the charge of obstructing justice.

The court let the sentences of the other 10 stand.

Activists held for inciting against Shahal

DAVID RUDGE

SEVERAL supporters of Uzi Meshulam were detained for questioning by police Wednesday night in the Galilee after distributing leaflets in Safed denouncing Minister for Internal Security Moshe Shahal.

The spokesman for the Galilee police district said 25 men and women and around 60 children had traveled from Yehud to Safed, and had spent the day walking around the old quarter of the city.

Later they made their way to the grave of Rabbi Shimon Bar-Yochai on Mount Meron. The spokesman said that during their visit they distributed hand-written leaflets, which according to police sources contained inflammatory comments denouncing Shahal and the police in general.

The group of Meshulam followers was de-

tained and taken to the Karmiel police station, where 19 of the adults were questioned. Criminal files were opened against some of them.

During the course of the inquiries, the youngsters waited outside the police station chanting slogans condemning Shahal and the police.

The Galilee District spokesman said all of those detained for questioning were later released.

Police on alert for disturbances by disciples

RAINE MARCUS

POLICE are on alert for possible disturbances by Uzi Meshulam's supporters due to their dissatisfaction with the small reduction made in his eight-year sentence yesterday.

Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal has been targeted by the group, and several of Meshulam's supporters were arrested for allegedly trying to break in to his Haifa home and for hanging him in effigy.

Although police have constantly emphasized that only fringe elements are responsible for offenses, his supporters have

caused numerous disturbances since Meshulam's arrest in May 1994. Moreover, police have long had information indicating that such a fringe group is capable of harming MKs and VIPs.

Meshulam's wife, Elisheva, said yesterday she was not surprised at the court's decision, which "just shows the distortion of the legal system."

Meshulam, who enjoys privileged conditions in Ramle's Ayalon Prison, will soon be entitled to receive furloughs, after having

served a quarter of his sentence. Furloughs are approved by the Prisons Service depending on recommendations by police. Considering his past record in prison, a police source said police may object to furloughs.

"However if we get reports that Meshulam and his supporters are well-behaved, and are not disturbing the peace, there is no reason for us to object to his furloughs," said a senior police officer. "If they are quiet and well behaved, he will be allowed out on furloughs just like any other prisoner. If there are disturbances, then we will object. We must wait and see and take each case on its merit."

Counselor remanded until trial's end

AN Uzi Meshulam follower, arrested for leading a group of youths in a march in which they chanted slogans against Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal, was remanded until the end of trial by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Noam Akbes, a counselor for a Meshulam youth group, was indicted after Channel 1 showed footage of him last month leading the youths in the chant, "Shahal your time is up." They also hanged Shahal in effigy. (Dim)

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Prosperity as peace bait

AFTER years of fruitless negotiations with Damascus, Israel and the US seem to have concluded that money may succeed where reason has failed. Appeals to Syria's understanding for Israel's security concerns have proved a futile exercise. And demands for the kind of normalization which would signal a true transformation have met a Syrian stone wall. What remains is the enticement of prosperity.

Undeniably, making peace with Israel is financially rewarding. Egypt has been receiving \$2.2 billion annually in economic and military assistance from the US ever since it signed the peace treaty with Israel. Jordan, deprived of US assistance for siding with Iraq during the Gulf War, was forgiven by Washington once it made peace with Israel and had its \$700 million debt to the US canceled. The PLO, although reportedly worth anywhere between \$10b. and \$15b., has been receiving sizable contributions from donor nations. The US has already granted the organization \$160 million, with another \$340m. due in the next four years. Other countries have given or pledged sums amounting to more than \$1.5b.

Nor is Syria in a position to refuse the kind of offer the US is apparently prepared to make. It is a poor country whose oil reserves are running out. That it cannot pay Russia the \$1b. it owes for weapons is symptomatic of its problems. And that it squandered on arms the \$2b. it received from the Saudis as a reward for symbolically joining the coalition against Iraq (though its troops never fired a shot in the war) is indicative of its priorities. To visit Syria is to experience the Third World.

True, if Syria agrees to the Israeli-American proposals it may have to relinquish the \$4b. it earns annually from the drugs it grows in Lebanon, and it may lose the financial support it gets from Iran. But this would all be easily offset by Western investments and aid.

As the US and Israel see it, a Syrian-Israeli peace treaty would transform Syria from a backwater to a thriving, dynamic, modern economy. With the Golan thrown into the bargain, and with Israel apparently agreeing to the continued Syrian occupation of Lebanon, it is difficult to see why Syria does not grab the proposed deal.

Yet dictator Hafez Assad's is apparently reluctant to agree to true normalization. He seems to fear the effects on his dictatorship of opening Syria to large-scale tourism and the extensive presence of Western companies. Westernization and the democratic notions it inevitably brings are the natural enemies of dictatorial regimes. And Assad's rule, which relies on the support of

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the Alawite minority, is especially vulnerable. Nor is everyone in the Israeli government sanguine about the withdrawal from the Golan. Injecting a note of sobriety into the negotiations, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak has stated that Israel must control the vital water sources of the Jordan river and the Kinneret. To control these sources, Israel must stay on the Golan.

To alleviate one of Israel's main concerns, Secretary of State Warren Christopher has been discussing "water arrangements among us, the Syrians, and the Turks," as a Peres aide has put it. But Ankara's experience with the Syrians has not been encouraging. Unlike the Israeli government, the Turks have no illusions about Assad's reliability. All the agreements they have reached with him on curbing terrorist activity by the Kurdish PKK have been ignored.

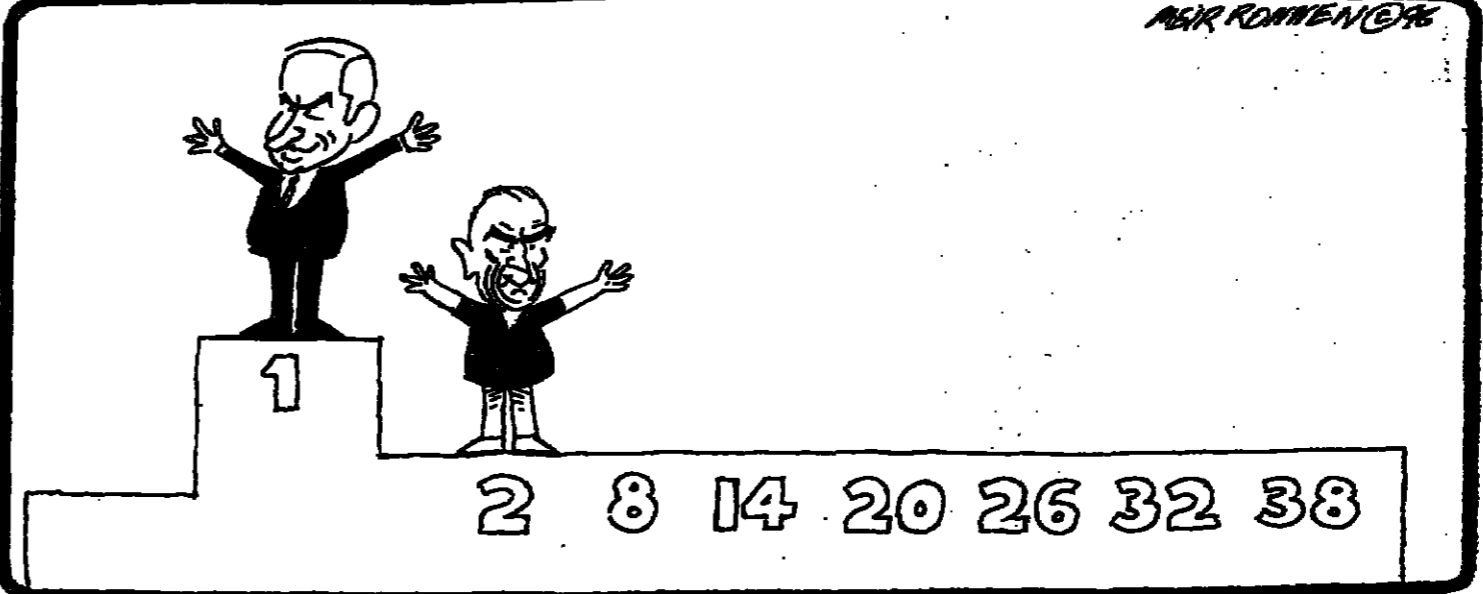
The Turks are also unhappy about the prospect of a Syrian-Israeli arrangement, which would enable the Syrians to concentrate their army on the Turkish border. Nor does Turkey seem ready to help resolve the water problem. Its own growing needs, say Turkish officials, make the prospect of a water surplus slim.

An "economic solution" to the Arab-Israeli conflict has been advocated by Peres for more than 30 years. In the 1980s he talked of a Marshall Plan for the region, something that will replace war-making with prosperity and change the Middle East the way post-World War II American aid transformed Europe.

But there are numerous differences between the European countries and the regimes in Israel's neighborhood. Not the least of these was pointed out by the army's deputy chief of intelligence, Brig.-Gen. Ya'acov Amidror, last week. Disparaging Peres's optimistic assessments, he asserted that, unlike the Arab-Israeli relationship, Western Europe consists of people of similar cultural and religious backgrounds.

But the most dramatic difference is in the systems of government. In Europe the first condition for the Marshall Plan's success was that all recipients of American aid, whether allies or former enemies, had to be democracies. It was unthinkable that a Communist, Fascist, or any other form of dictatorship would be included in the plan.

Assad's Syria is still one of the most ruthless dictatorships in the world. No change has been discernible in the beliefs, conduct, or aims of its leadership. It may desperately need Western help at this point and agree to establish diplomatic relations with Israel to receive it. But to suppose that it has changed its character, and to relinquish a vital strategic asset like the Golan to appease such a dictatorship, is to replay this century's most fateful blunders.



A hand that takes, and gives

YITZHAK ROGOW

ONE wonders how much thought and study of the facts preceded the recent spate of irresponsible and misleading statements attributed to individuals like author A.B. Yehoshua and Minister Yossi Beilin.

In the event that press reports of their message were accurate, their "candor" vis-à-vis Diaspora Jewry is an affront, pure and simple.

Hundreds of Israeli institutions depend for their very survival on a constant flow of funds from world Jewry. We are talking about major institutions that continue to make their impact on our life here in every sphere, in some cases contributing to the advancement of mankind.

If world Jewry's benevolence were to dry up now or in the foreseeable future, the consequences would be disastrous.

Imagine 385,000 dedicated Hadassah women in North America and their growing worldwide network of supporters calling their activities on behalf of Israel to a halt. The Hadassah hospitals at Ein Kerem and on Mt. Scopus would be brought to their knees. Hadassah College, which educates some 800 students annually, would soon be forced to shut down.

This is true of most of Israel's hospitals and health institutions, and of all universities and institutions of higher learning, schools, day care centers, museums, and sports facilities. And our forests, parks, and recreational facilities

are as dependent as ever upon generous Jewish philanthropy.

The Israel Museum is just one of many major cultural institutions that battle annually for every meager agora from government and municipal sources. If the flow of Diaspora funds dried

Jewish charity doesn't end with the desire to donate to Israel or solely Jewish local institutions. Wealthy Jews are major contributors to regional and local causes, giving sums that proportionately exceed those of their non-Jewish counterparts.

Charity to Israel: an umbilical cord with a two-way source of nourishment

up, the museum would have to close its doors instantly. Israel's quality of life and services - including, I daresay, those of Messrs. Yehoshua and Beilin - would suffer as a result.

Jews may no longer be persecuted, but the price of freedom is increasing assimilation and intermarriage. What A.B. Yehoshua doesn't seem to appreciate is that the very act of Jewish giving to Israel can potentially counteract assimilation.

With more and more Jewish philanthropy earmarked for specific objectives in Israel, givers are materially and spiritually tied to the institutions they benefit. It is an umbilical cord with a two-way source of nourishment.

Through their donations, Diaspora Jews relate in a concrete way to the Jewish state, strengthening their Jewishness, and, often, their children's and grandchildren's.

Walk into the foyer of any major cultural, educational, or health institution anywhere in the world that has a significant Jewish presence. The number of plaques honoring Jewish benefactors is staggering.

And if the quality of giving is "in the genes" of Diaspora Jews, why shouldn't Israel or Israeli institutions benefit?

The old maxim that Israel is a poor country with rich citizens becomes truer every day. Yet appearances are often deceptive. This is still far from a rich or self-sufficient country.

Can we do without the \$3 billion that the US government gives us on a yearly basis? Does the American Jewish presence, not to mention AIPAC, have no effect on this generosity? Should we throw it back in their faces?

Would the US Congress be so pro-Israel were it not for the need to foster Jewish voting support? And will American Jews be as

pro-Israel if we continue to scorn their many efforts on our behalf?

The newly wealthy do not easily part with their money. The tradition of giving is fostered over generations, and usually comes easier with old and established wealth. Thus, on the whole, rich Israelis aren't yet philanthropic Israelis. The few who do give significant sums are invariably those who made aliya and have been affluent for many years.

Messrs. Beilin and Yehoshua do have a point. Very often, Diaspora Jews feel that their contributions entitle them to express vociferous political opinions, or to criticize Israel's policies. To Israelis who resent this, the views of Beilin and Yehoshua are sweet music.

But a complete reversal of Israel-Diaspora relations is unjustified. Let us not take one point and weave a whole philosophy out of it. What we need is to turn our outstretched hand into one that also gives.

The interdependence of Jews is as valid today as it was 50 years ago, maybe more valid. The vast difference is that today the Jewish state can give more back. It can begin to repay its debt to world Jewry in a multitude of ways, by helping the Diaspora remain Jewish, and by encouraging aliya.

It is time to do that, rather than widen the chasm.

The writer is deputy director-general for development and international relations at the Israel Museum.

The impression of 'peace passivity'

DAVID FORMAN

INTERIOR Minister Haim Ramon made an outlandish statement when he addressed six reform rabbis from North America recently. He claimed that prior to the Lebanon War, Labor had had the chance of forming a coalition with the hard-line parties on the basis of a change in the Law of Return that would satisfy Israel's ultra-Orthodox community. Had that been the case, Labor would have been in power instead of the Likud, and 650 Israelis wouldn't have lost their lives in that war.

Taking this line of reasoning to its absurd extreme, Ramon was blaming the deaths of young Israeli soldiers on the Reform Movement.

One might jot Mr. Ramon's memory a bit. Labor, consulted by the Likud prior to the invasion into Lebanon, stood behind the Likud government's adventure. It was only when protest within Labor's political ranks and among the general populace broke out that the Labor leadership began to question the war. It took Sabra and Shatila truly to wake up the Labor Party, and by then most of our soldiers had already died.

Ramon failed miserably to make a crucial point that he should have underscored: The principle of religious pluralism cannot be the sole preoccupation of any particular community.

We are living in an altered Israel, a post-Rabin-assassination Israel. Our non-Orthodox rabbinic colleagues abroad, like those of us in Israel, left the stage open for the extreme right-wing leadership, creating the image in the eyes of most Americans that the Jewish community there opposed Rabin's peace overtures.

This "peace passivity" was reinforced by a Diaspora "religious activism" that produced such parochial statements as "If Labor included Shas in its coalition, support for the peace process among liberal Jews might be jeopardized."

Overall support for Israel among Jews and non-Jews alike may very well be jeopardized when, in pursuit of its religious goals, non-Orthodox Jews here

present Israel one-dimensionally, as an undemocratic country where Conservative and Reform Jews are the most besieged minority. (I have yet to be carted off in the middle of the night and placed under administrative detention because I am a Reform rabbi.)

Religious pluralism cannot go on being the sole preoccupation of Conservative and Reform Jews

Cranking up support for one's cause by employing extreme characterizations can ultimately only hurt Israel; it will most certainly hurt the peace front.

A WEEK after the Rabin assassination, a group of Progressive rabbis met with Health Minister Efraim Sneh. The meeting was intended to brief us on the peace process, so that we might in turn brief our colleagues abroad. The hope was that we might garner support among Diaspora rabbinic leadership for the government's efforts to implement Oslo 2, support that was previously not forthcoming.

POSTSCRIPTS

CANCER CAUSED by particles thrown out by dying stars may have killed off dinosaurs 65 million years ago, an American scientist said.

Juan Collar of the University of South Carolina believes that sub-atomic particles called neutrinos released from stars collapsing in earth's galaxy may have produced a cancer pandemic among dinosaurs.

Neutrinos colliding with the nuclei of living atoms could damage DNA, nature's genetic building blocks, producing cancer-causing mutations.

THREE MEN were arrested and charged with one of the more un-

usual crimes we'll hear about this year: they were going to invade Cuba.

The CIA removed more than two truckloads of weapons and equipment, including assault rifles, body armor, and radio equipment from a Los Angeles business.

Federal agents also learned of the purchase by the alleged conspirators of a shrimp boat that can carry up to 30 people from the US to Cuba.

Rene Cruz Sr., 68, the owner of the business, his son, Rene Cruz Jr., 47, and Rafael Garcia, 45, were arrested. They belong to a paramilitary group opposed to the rule of Cuban president Fidel Castro. The men, who are Cu-

ba-born but live in the Los Angeles area, were charged with conspiracy and expedition against friendly nations.

Agents found plans that said the invaders would leave from the US, capture additional weapons after landing in Cuba and provoke an armed uprising in three Cuban cities: Artemisa, Consolacion and San Juan Y Martinez.

Two satellite units also were found in the warehouse, along with scuba gear, a videotape of the Cuban shoreline, four rubber rafts with motors and a Cuban flag.

The group planned to depend on Cuban exiles in the US for manpower and financial backing.

the most parochial game in town. It is as if the notion of *Hal Yisrael*, the brotherhood of Jews, played no role in a liberal religious understanding of Judaism.

One would have hoped that at least in the brief meeting with Sneh, coming on the heels of Rabin's murder, we liberal rabbis might have shelved our own narrow concerns.

When the average secular Israeli hears us parroting the language of the Orthodox world as it relates to the political sphere, he or she is justified in retorting "A plague on both your houses."

Of course non-Orthodox religious Jews should continue pressing for their legitimate rights. The court action and successes that have been achieved by the Reform Movement's Religious Action Center are to be lauded. Change in the relationship between religion and state will ultimately be recorded by legal adjudication.

But liberal religious Jews should not separate out what ought, according to their ideological worldview, be a parallel commitment to peace.

One-dimensionalism is contradictory to a liberal religious outlook.

The writer is spokesperson of Rabbis for Human Rights.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE PALESTINIAN COVENANT

Sir, - Your correspondent Jon Immanuel continually refers to the Palestinian National Covenant as having been adopted in 1968. The fact is that the covenant was adopted in 1964 - three years before the Six Day War - and was amended in a relatively minor way in 1968.

With the growing attention in the media to this subject as the date (April 12?) approaches on which Israel expects this document to be radically revised, the date of its adoption assumes increasing importance. The importance of the date stems from the fact that the PLO's founding charter was first published, with all of its radical anti-Israel provisions already in place, three years before Israel came into possession of the so-called "occupied territories."

In other words, the Israel the PLO wanted to see destroyed was Green-Line Israel - without the "territories."

May I suggest therefore that, in future references to the Palestinian National Covenant, its correct date of birth - 1964 - should be used. Jerusalem. MOSHE AUMANN

LOST IN OZ

Sir, - If Gabi Sheffer's article, "Strange mist of Arabs" (January 24) is indicative of the current government's position, then it is clear that they have based their policies on vacuous assumptions and wishful thinking. Professor Sheffer distorts history when he misrepresents the position of those who rightly claimed that King Hussein of Jordan would not sign an Israeli-Jordanian accord prior to an Israeli-Palestinian accord, and those who raised legitimate questions in regard to Assad's intentions. However, his subsequent comments, as well as his apparent obsession with straw men, make it clear that he is living in his own land of Oz.

Astonishingly, Professor Sheffer writes that Israelis live in a constant and inexplicable state of mistrust and anxiety about the Arabs. Israeli mistrust and anxiety about the Arabs is not inexplicable. It can be explained by the terrorist attacks in Tel Aviv, Beit Lid, Ramat Gan and Jerusalem. It can be explained by hearing Arafat describe the "peace" process in terms of "jihad" and "liberation." It can be explained by watching 250,000 Gazans mourn the death of the terrorist Ayyash and

listening to Arafat confer martyr status on terrorists.

Professor Sheffer astutely points out that democracy cannot develop in societies that are traditional or ruled by local despots, and that only the removal of such impediments can pave the way to democracy. Consequently, one can either conclude that Professor Sheffer believes Arafat to be a Jeffersonian democrat, or is advocating his removal.

Just as Dorothy, in the movie *The Wizard of Oz*, placed her salvation on the wizard, so too does Professor Sheffer rely on the permeation of Western culture and technology into Arab society to pave the way to democracy. However, he ignores the fact that traditional opposition, such as Islamic fundamentalism, has risen concomitantly with Western permeation. I would caution Professor Sheffer, and the current government, to keep the champagne on ice until this struggle runs its course. Despite their fantasies, this is not the land of Oz, and neither Professor Sheffer, nor Prime Minister Peres, can just close their eyes, click their heels three times, and be transported to a "new" Middle East. SHAWN PINE

Beit Yitzhak.

RELATIONS WITH THE CHURCH

Sir, - If the outrage expressed by my Christian friends here is anything to go by, it wasn't Oleg's cartoon or the *Post*'s publication of it which offended their sensitivities, but the fact that Arafat turned Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem into a political circus and pronounced Jesus a "Palestinian."

Msgr. Dr. Matteo's censure ("Church offended," Letters, January 30) should therefore have been directed, at least in part, at the PA leader, demanding his apology for such a blatant attempt to rewrite history. It would no doubt have helped to improve the Vatican's image in the eyes of non-Catholic Christians and also of the Israeli public.

Casting doubts on Israel's goodwill in its relations with the Christian world (of which the Catholic

Church is part) merely attests to Msgr. Matteo's seeming inability to learn the lesson of the infatidra, i.e. that the continued existence of Christianity in the Middle East is under threat of Islam, not from the Jewish State. R. WILLERS

Wembley Park, Middx.

PROPAGANDA COUP

Sir, - What a brilliant propaganda coup by Yasser Arafat handed to him by Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer when he agreed to be photographed in front of a huge picture of the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount. It is as if he said "Yes, Jerusalem is yours."

YEKUTIEL BARETTI Jerusalem.

P.J. BERLYN Karkur.

Public's right to know

ISRAEL lacks a truly independent television authority. Channels 1 and 2 are both state-sponsored, to a greater or lesser degree; both have responsible ministers, Shulamit Aloni and Shimon Peres, respectively; both have so-called public councils, which in reality represent political parties.

The situation is one in which the sacrosanct principle of the public's right to know is tenuous at best.

We were thus concerned over the news that the Knesset is slated to ratify a coalition-proposed law enabling the Israel Broadcasting Authority to influence the upcoming election campaign by effectively controlling the public's right to know. And media reports that election broadcasts will be limited to Channel 1 — the more biased channel — only point to a worsening of the situation.

Paragraph 5(A) (2) of the Elections Law — Method of Electioneering, prohibits displaying the image of a candidate for the Knesset on television for a period of 30 days prior to elections.

Calling the present law "archaic," the heads of the IBA and the Second TV Channel Authority are lobbying strongly for passage of this radical change. They claim that candidates will be seen daily on cable TV anyway, so why shouldn't their channels get in on the act?

We believe that the proposed changes are actually a concerted government effort to exploit the supposedly independent broadcasting authorities to influence the elections, thereby assuring the election of Shimon Peres as prime minister, and the continued supremacy of the Labor-Meretz coalition.

DURING the past year, Israel's

**ELI POLLAK
YISRAEL MEDAD**

Media Watch has reported numerous violations by the electronic media of the law regarding fairness, balance, and variety, as well as the code of ethics.

Imbalance on TV's *Popolitica* program as regards guests, format, and time allocation has been reported. The program's notoriety gained national attention following a report in *Yediot Aharanot* on November 9 that the editor of the program had stated

The government is using the media to meddle in democracy

his view that the program was "leftist" and would remain so.

The editor subsequently wrote to the IBA apologizing for his outburst, though not for his stand. The Broadcasting Authority's lack of willingness to publicize this letter only exemplifies its insensitivity to public criticism.

The police are completing an investigation of the IBA over charges that the swearing-in ceremony of the infamous Eyal group, headed by alleged General Security Service agent Avishai Raviv, was staged.

This week, Israel's Media Watch published a report detailing the pronounced bias in favor of the government on Israel Radio's talk/interview show hosted by Dalia Yairi.

Another report focused on the week following the Rabin assassi-

nation as reflected on Channel 1. The report noted the inflammatory statements approved for broadcasting which accused leading opposition politicians of direct responsibility for the murder. There was no attempt to balance such statements.

IT IS our considered opinion that Israelis cannot depend on the IBA for fair and impartial coverage in the most comprehensive sense of the term, especially at a time of national soul-searching and debate, which is what elections are.

The current law, perhaps awkward for the cameraman, is wise. As long as the electronic media depend on the government, it is unnatural to expect them to treat the opposition fairly.

The present law forbids appearances of candidates outside the electioneering commercials prepared by the parties themselves. This arrangement truly assures all candidates a fair shake, with equal time allotted according to the law.

If the government were truly interested in fair and accurate reporting, it would privatize the IBA, reducing the dependency of the media on the government and constituting a great step forward in assuring the public's right to know.

Whatever the results of the elections, Israelis should be left with the feeling that the campaign was fair, free, and unbiased.

Allowing the electronic media to meddle in the elections can only damage democracy. It will do very little to heal the wounds in our society.

The writers are, respectively, chairman and executive director of Israel's Media Watch.



Questions of principle

THE first breakthrough in Israel's relations with the Arab world came 17 years ago, when the peace treaty with Egypt was concluded under the Likud government.

At the time, the Likud also proposed autonomy for the Palestinians. The Palestinian population would be given the opportunity to run their own lives with virtually no Israeli interference.

Despite its many limitations, this autonomy program — whose main points were incorporated in the Camp David accords — was far superior to the Oslo agreements, which bode a Palestinian state with a large army.

The Likud plan posited that neither a Palestinian state nor any foreign sovereignty would be established west of the Jordan River. The responsibility for security, especially in the fight against terror, would be Israel's.

Jewish settlement in all parts of the Land of Israel would continue and increase. And Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, would be undivided. Except for the right to religious worship, no foreign element would have any standing in the capital.

But since then facts have been established on the ground. Gaza and Jericho, and subsequently six more cities in Judea and Samaria, have been handed over to the Palestinians. The city of Hebron, except for its Jewish Quarter, is to be transferred next month. And the Palestinians have been given administrative powers in additional territories.

Despite all this, we must not accept the iniquitous and dangerous Oslo agreements. Their acceptance by the Likud, which some are now demanding, will deny us the ability to oppose their continued implementation.

Facts created on the ground cannot be ignored. But when a national government assumes power after the coming elections, it must effect changes. Chiefly, Palestinian violations have to be reversed, full Israeli sovereignty

ARIEL SHARON

in the eastern part of Jerusalem must be restored, and Palestinian "security forces," which now exercise authority in the city, must be removed.

IF THE Likud accepts the Oslo Pact, it no longer has a right to exist.

Will a Likud government allow the return of a million Palestinian refugees, as Arafat demands? It would be a clear recipe for national suicide. Will a Likud government hand over additional territory to the Palestinian Authority without establishing full Israeli responsibility for security, as the Oslo agreement requires?

Will a Likud government prevent the IDF from freely moving in the autonomy zones and con-

If the Likud accepts the Oslo pact, it no longer has a right to exist

fine the army to bases in areas under Palestinian control? These are provisions in the Oslo agreement. Will a Likud government continue to destroy Israeli agriculture, as the present government has started doing, and permit free imports of Arab farm produce?

Can we allow Palestinians to control the subterranean water resources which supply both the coastal area and Judea and Samaria? For us, this is a question of life or death. In Gaza the Palestinians have dug hundreds of wells, and by over-pumping them have caused salinity in Western Negev wells.

IN THE areas not yet handed over to the Palestinians, constituting the majority of the territories, the Likud will be able to apply its program.

Areas essential to Israel's secu-

rity, including the mountain ridge, the settlements, the main arteries linking the coastal area to the Jordan River, and the area around Jerusalem with its satellite towns, will not be included in the Palestinian autonomy zones. In other sections, where Palestinian autonomy prevails, the responsibility for security will be Israel's.

Obviously, if tranquility and security prevail, it will be in Israel's interest to reduce the military presence in the autonomy areas at its own initiative. The right of our security forces to move freely will be permanent, but the extent of our activity will be determined by the degree of security on the ground.

Full security means that a Jewish child or woman or any Israeli citizen will be able to go anywhere unmolested, the way Palestinian women and children move freely in Israeli cities.

We do not wish to return to Gaza and Jenin, or the other towns now under full Palestinian control. The Likud program never envisioned our staying in these places. But if terrorism does not end, a national government will restore Israel's right to take pre-emptive action and its right of hot pursuit.

Above all, a Likud government will prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state, now being created by the government before our very eyes.

If the Likud believes it is right, it cannot allow its ideology to be determined by opinion polls. It must adhere to its ideological path, and persuade the public that only the Likud can bring the country peace and security.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former defense minister.

Party politics, with belly dancing

SUE TEDMON

I held a party two weeks ago at my home in Efrat. There was singing and dancing and eating. There wasn't much talking: Half the guests didn't speak the same language as the other half. But in the end, it didn't really matter.

Half of my guests were Palestinian Arab women from the Moslem village of Sheikh Abdullah Ibrahim. Having sipped numerous cups of coffee in their homes and danced with them at several weddings in their village, I decided it was time to return their hospitality.

The other half were Jewish women from Efrat, whose curiosity and innate friendliness had won out over their misgivings.

It was an unusual mixture of people. But chocolate chip cookies, an upturned bucket filling in for a drum, and an opera singer (my sister, an American visitor) helped break the ice.

Some people found my hosting such a party puzzling. After all, I go to all the right-wing demonstrations, wearing my green hat; and I've been arrested.

Even our mayor, whom I plan to invite to my house to meet some of the village elders for the first time, was confused when I showed up at a vigil held on the day of the Palestinian elections to prevent PA candidates from going through Efrat on their way to Wadi Niss.

"Are you for or against?" he asked. "You'll have them in your home, but you won't let them come into your town?"

It's hard to explain that my opposition to the "peace" process and the Palestinian Authority doesn't extend to individuals. Sometimes I feel I am the only one struggling with this conflict.

I have yet to hear a right-winger say, "There are good, decent

Arabs out there. Lumping them together with terrorists is a moral problem." And I have yet to hear a left-winger say, "There are Arabs who try to kill any Jews they can. This makes trusting Arabs a problem."

Let's face it. As a group, Arabs have a lousy track record. With very few, notorious, exceptions, the violence between Arabs and Jews has been one-sided.

I understand those who say Ar-

together socially?" I stoutly denied it. It was simply a party, I said, a way to introduce one set of friends to another, to make music and have fun. Politics had nothing to do with it.

Or maybe it did. Maybe I protested too much. There is a part of me that wants to shake my Jewish neighbors up a bit, to tell them, "Look — these are the people you hate and fear so much!"

I don't want it to be so easy for

I wanted to shake my Jewish friends up a bit, to tell them, Look! These are the people you hate and fear so much

as we exchanged names — yes, there really are Arab women named Miriam! — and communicated in the too-loud, too-slow voices of people who don't speak each other's language.

As things loosened up, the Arab women rose and began to belly dance, with a joy and abandon that made me understand the reason the Arab husbands had made me promise no men would be present. (Shlomo Riskin, Efrat's chief rabbi, had originally suggested he might be there at the beginning to welcome the guests.)

In contrast, we inhibited Jewish types made a stiff bunch, sitting very straight in our chairs and hoping no one would make us get up there and perform.

My home-baked, American-style cookies and cakes drew a mixed response. The Arab women nibbled politely, but left most of the food on their plates; the dieting Jewish women cast longing gazes. The chocolates a Jewish neighbor brought were gobbled greedily by all.

The Arab women brought gifts — little porcelain knickknacks, an oddly designed ceramic vessel, and a picture I overheard my sister describe as "perfectly hideous." All these treasures must now be prominently displayed in my living room.

I gave each guest a gift to take home: flower seeds, reminiscent of the seeds Suad gave me some time ago, now growing nicely in my backyard.

Seeds can be unpredictable. Some sprout and do well; others don't make it. You can't know in advance, but one thing is sure: You have to plant them to find out.

Well, people came, relieving my biggest fear: general cold feet. Everyone tried not to stare

them to reject all Arabs en masse, as we right-wingers reject the Palestinian Authority and all it stands for. I want them to face the conflict, the moral problem of judging individuals according to what others do. Most of all, I want them to glimpse the world I've seen, to appreciate all it has to offer.

There's another part of me, too, that wants to show my Arab friends Jewish hospitality, to welcome them into my world as they've welcomed me, and again and again, into theirs.

But I also want to show them what this world includes. They've seen me hiking through the wadi back and forth to Givat Hadagan; they've seen my assortment of right-wing bumper stickers. I want them to know that this too is part of who I am.

So how did the party go?

Well, people came, relieving my biggest fear: general cold feet. Everyone tried not to stare

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Bosnian rivals jeopardize Dayton accord

News agencies
SARAJEVO

BOSNIA'S fragile peace process faced a new test yesterday after the Serbs cut off relations with the Bosnian government over its seizure of two officers and Croats imposed a curfew in the tense town of Mostar.

The Croat move followed a day of protests against European Union administrators in Mostar which drew strong condemnation by NATO and EU governments.

The US said it was concerned by the Bosnian government's seizure of Bosnian Serb military officers but it did not justify Serbs breaking off contacts.

Bosnian Serb General Djordje Djukic and Colonel Aleksa Krsmanovic and their driver were captured by authorities on January 30 west of Sarajevo.

The Moslem-led government, which admits holding a total of eight Serb men captured around Sarajevo, has accused the two officers of war crimes.

"We're concerned about the circumstances of the detention of General Djukic, and other Bosnian Serb officials, by the Bosnian government. We've told the Bosnian government that we're concerned about that action," State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said.

"We believe it is important ... that all parties to the Dayton accords (on a Bosnia peace settlement) respect the provisions of those accords - notably in this case, the provisions regarding the free movement of peoples."

But Davies criticized the Bosnian Serbs for declaring a boycott of all contacts on Bosnian government territory.

The UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague had asked the Bosnian government provisionally to hold Djukic and Krsmanovic, saying it is considering indicting them for atrocities committed during the Bosnia conflict.

In Vienna, the chief prosecutor of the international war crimes tribunal confirmed yesterday that Bosnian authorities did have the authority under the Dayton plan to arrest the two officers.

Richard Goldstone refused to give any details of the evidence

against the two, saying only it was "sufficient information to justify more investigation."

In Mostar, the German administrator assigned to reunify the bitterly divided city threatened yesterday to resign unless his mission gets renewed backing from the European Union.

Hans Koschnick spoke on German radio a day after hundreds of Bosnian Croats rioted to protest his proposal that they share power with Moslems in the southwestern Bosnian city.

NATO-led troops patrolled the city's snowy streets yesterday, and Italy's foreign minister made a surprise trip to the Croatian capital of Zagreb to discuss Mostar with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

Koschnick, the EU administrator, threatened to resign if the EU accepts a permanent division of the city.

"A German cannot concede a city division," he told *Norddeutscher Rundfunk*, alluding to the 28-year division of Berlin.

A Moslem-Croat federation that will control half of Bosnia is considered a cornerstone of the peace accord. But Mostar has never overcome animosities stemming from brutal Moslem-Croat fighting there in 1993 before the federation was formed.

Up to 2,000 Bosnian Croats besieged the EU headquarters and attacked Koschnick in his car.

Some shouted "Za dom spremni" - "We are ready for the homeland" - the salute of the fascists who ran Croatia's Nazi-backed World War II government.

Koschnick demanded yesterday that the EU make "a principle decision: Do we accept a durable division of the city along the front lines of the last war, or do we want to reunite the city?"

Koschnick's sharing plan calls for three Moslem and three Croat districts and a neutral territory in Mostar's center. The Croats angrily rejected the central zone as "a fourth Moslem district" because the majority of its population is Moslem.



Crewmen from a US Coast Guard cutter yesterday retrieve debris from the ill-fated Boeing 757 that crashed into the sea off the coast of the Dominican Republic on Wednesday. (Reuters)

Search widened for air crash victims

PUERTO PLATA, Dominican Republic (AP) - Rescuers widened their search yesterday, but found no survivors in the sea of debris that may be all that remains of a jet that plunged into the Atlantic Ocean with 189 people.

The bodies of at least 105 people were recovered before the search was called off at nightfall amid a tropical rainstorm.

The search resumed at daybreak yesterday, with pilots from the US Coast Guard and Dominican military directing searchers in rubber dinghies. Rescuers expanded the search area to account for possible drifting. Seas were calm and there were scattered thundershowers.

The chartered jet - substituted at the last minute - went down for unknown reasons 19 km off the resort of Puerto Plata on the north coast of the Dominican Republic on Tuesday night. Most of the people on board were German tourists.

Coast Guard officers described finding coffee cans compressed into pieces of tin by the impact of the crash.

"It doesn't look like anybody would have survived that," US Coast Guard helicopter pilot Scott Matthews said, describing the scene of floating debris and bodies.

Dominican investigators believe the plane plunged into the 1,310-meter-deep water minutes after taking off from Puerto Plata, said Air Force Col. Manuel Mendez Segura.

Its 176 passengers and 13 crew were headed to Berlin and Frankfurt. Most passengers were German tourists, and four were children. Eleven crew members were Turkish and two were Dominican.

Officials differed over who was in charge of Flight 301 - the Dominican airline that leased the plane shortly before takeoff or the Turkish company that owned it. They also differed over whether the pilot reported problems, and the reason why the aircraft was leased as a substitute at the last minute.

Light rain was falling when Flight 301, operated by the Dominican airline Alas Transporte de Internacional, took off around 11:45 p.m. It reached an altitude of 2,100 meters and appeared on radar screens to veer right, as if turning back, before going down, Dominican officials said.

The pilot radioed that he was returning to Puerto Plata, and the last message from the crew was "Stand by," according to Gen. Hector Roman, director of the Dominican Republic's civil aviation agency.

His account was disputed by an air traffic controller on duty in the tower said by Maj. Alan Arias Batlle, a member of a committee investigating the crash for the Dominican Civil Aeronautics Office.

The pilot called in his position to air traffic controllers and then the aircraft disappeared from the screen, said the controller, who refused to give his name.

"All the communication was normal," Arias Batlle said. "In no moment did they speak of an emergency."

The Boeing 757 was leased shortly before takeoff from the Turkish Birgenair company after Alas' own Boeing 767 developed mechanical trouble, Birgenair said. The 767's landing gear wasn't functioning properly, according to an Alas employee who requested anonymity.

Birgenair's owner, Gulperi Peri, told The Associated Press there was a report that lightning may have struck the jetliner that crashed, but investigators said no cause had been determined.

Rosamarie Meichner, a spokeswoman for Schoenefeld airport in Berlin, said the planes had been switched because the flight was underbooked for a 767, which holds about 300 people. The 757 holds 224 passengers.

A Dominican civil defense official, Domingo Antonio Vargas, said late as many as 126 bodies had been found.

The bodies were taken to a makeshift morgue consisting of two refrigerated seafood trucks at Puerto Plata. The dock where the trucks were parked was protected by heavily armed Dominican guards.

"At this stage, unfortunately, we have no hope of finding any survivors," the German ambassador, Edmund Duckwitz, said at the morgue.

Ireland presses its 'Dayton' plan

DUBLIN (Reuters) - Ireland sought US support yesterday for a plan to hold a two-day brainstorming session of Northern Ireland's political parties to pave the way for a permanent end to 25 years of political and sectarian strife.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring travelled to Washington to enlist Bill Clinton's backing for Bosnia-style talks which the US president successfully convened in Dayton, Ohio.

Irish officials said they expected a sympathetic hearing from Clinton, who paid a triumphant peace-making visit last year to Ireland, but they face a familiar struggle in persuading the British to accept it.

They hoped a two-day session of intensive "proximity" talks under the same roof might pave the way for Unionists, who want the province to stay British, and Nationalists, who want it united with Ireland, to sit at the same table.

The British government reacted coolly to Spring's proposal within hours of him making it public.

Clinton optimistic on cooling of China-Taiwan tension

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton said yesterday he is confident tensions between China and Taiwan would not explode into military conflict because too much was at stake in Asia.

"We have so much good going on in Asia in terms of economic growth and opportunity. I just don't believe the leaders will let that turn around," Clinton said.

When asked if he expected Chinese military action against Taiwan, which Beijing regards as a renegade province, Clinton

said: "I don't expect that to happen. We understand what the state of affairs is there, I believe, and I don't expect that to happen."

Clinton made the comments after a congratulatory phone call to newly inaugurated Haitian President Rene Preval. He reiterated the US "One China" policy recognizing Beijing as China's government and urged leaders in Beijing and Taipei to work out their differences peacefully.

China has threatened military

action against Taiwan if it formally declares independence or continues to campaign for greater international status.

Some reports have said it is planning big exercises in the Taiwan Strait ahead of Taiwan's March 23 presidential election.

At an earlier Senate hearing, senior US officials warned an unprovoked attack by China on Taiwan would have grave consequences, but they would not be specific and said they saw no evidence China would attack.

"That sort of situation would have very grave consequences," Deputy Assistant Defense Secretary Kurt Campbell told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord said "an unprovoked attack would be taken extremely seriously."

But he said he could not say in advance what the United States would do except that "the first thing" the administration would do would be to go to Congress "to fashion a bipartisan response."

A year has passed since the death of our beloved

DANIEL ROCKMAN

Family and friends will meet at the Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery on Thursday, February 15, 1996, at 3 p.m.

The Family

The unveiling of the tombstone for

HENRY MARKHAM

will be held on Monday, February 12, 1996 (22 Shvat 5756) at 3 p.m. at the Vatikim Cemetery, Netanya.

Markham, Lawson and Turner Families

Our beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather

MORRY CRAMER

passed away on Wednesday, February 7, 1996. He will be very sadly missed.

The funeral will take place today, Friday, February 9, 1996, at 12 noon, at the Ramat Hasharon cemetery, Morasha junction.

Families Schapiro, Cramer and Argan

On the second *yahrzeit* of

Rabbi JEROME POMERANTZ

we will hold a memorial service on Tuesday, February 13, 1996 at 3:30 p.m. at Har Tamir, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem.

The Family

We announce with regret the passing in Jerusalem of our dear

FRITZI GOCHSHEIMER

She bequeathed her body to science.

A meeting of remembrance will be held on February 22, at 4:30 p.m. at the Leo Baeck Institute, 33 Rehov Bustanai, Jerusalem.

On behalf of the family -

Michael J. and Salomé Berger, Jerusalem
Naftali and Shoshana Kadmon, Jerusalem
Mirale Schlesinger, Kfar Szold

The Members and Friends of

NEVE SHALOM/WAHAT AL-SALAM

regret to announce the death of

Fr. BRUNO HUSSAR

the founder of their Jewish/Arab community.

On Sunday, February 11, a prayer service will be held at Beit Isaiah, 20 Rehov Agron, Jerusalem, at 11 a.m.

The coffin will then be brought to Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam where mourners may pay their respects from 1 p.m. The funeral will take place at 2:30 p.m.

The consecration of the tombstone of my beloved wife, our mother and grandmother,

WALLY HAMMERSCHLAG

will take place on February 15 at 10:30 a.m., at the new Ra'anana Cemetery

Lutz and Family

V-2 site to be museum

BERNARD EDINGER
HELFAUT-WIZERNE, France

A Nazi German V-2 rocket base intended to blast England into submission in the closing stages of World War II, is to reopen as a war museum next year.

The vast and sinister concrete edifice near the northern French town of Saint Omer was built with Russian forced labor and proved indestructible when British Royal Air Force bombers tried to penetrate its five meter thick roof.

"Hitler said his Reich would last 1,000 years. Fortunately, it didn't. But he built this place and it will be here in a thousand years," said Historian Yves Le Maner on a press tour of the base.

Speaking beneath a massive, 50,000-tonne concrete cupola atop the base, Le Maner said: "We will make very clear the rockets were built by inmates of the Dora concentration camp in Germany at the cost of thousands of lives and that this base was built with Russian slave labor."

But he added: "We certainly will not hide the fact that the V-2 was a scientific and technical marvel which was the forerunner of the generations of rockets which followed and which put man on the Moon. Many of the same scientists were involved."

The 50 million franc (NIS 30 million) World War II European History Center which has been partly funded by the European Union and is aimed at educating Europe's youth about peace, is expected to draw around 250,000 visitors a year.

It is also hoped that the museum will provide jobs and draw tourists to this once-prosperous, but now depressed industrial area 35 kms from Calais on the Channel coast.

War nostalgia is already big business down the coast at the Normandy beaches, where allied forces landed in 1944, and at the site of the 1916 battle of Verdun.

The base, the biggest fixed launching site for the fearsome V-2 rockets pointed at Britain during World War II, has kilometers of underground tunnels.

The central exhibit is a towering, genuine V-2, one of only four or five left in the world, in its original camouflage.

Visitors will tour the base with headphones providing running commentaries in French, English, Dutch or German.

"The commentary will be exactly the same for all - German teenagers are as horrified by the war as are French or English teenagers," Le Maner said.

Ironically the base, called "the Cupola" because its dome is a prominent landmark among the area's chalky cliffs, never fired a single rocket.

When Britain's Royal Air Force discovered its existence in early 1944, it dropped about 3,000 tonnes of bombs on the structure, but they caused only slight damage to the five-meter thick concrete roof.

The RAF then blasted railway tracks and bridges in a wide surrounding area to prevent the Nazis bringing in the rockets.

The Germans finally evacuated in July 1944 shortly before the base fell to the Allies who landed in Normandy in June. (Reuters)

Mandela expected to seek economic changes

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - President Nelson Mandela opens the third session of the first democratic parliament today with an address likely to focus on economic measures to speed change away from apartheid structures.

The simple opening ceremony will take place against a backdrop recently stripped of the apartheid icons that dominated the first two years of all-race government.

The portraits and busts of colonial and Afrikaner generals and politicians inherited from the former white parliament were removed in January to make way for the United Nations Art Against Apartheid exhibition formally unveiled yesterday.

But the issues facing Mandela's transitional government of national unity remain largely the same as they were when he became the country's first black president on May 10, 1994.

Sources in Mandela's office and in his dominant African National Congress (ANC) said his state-of-the-nation address at 11 a.m. (0900 GMT) was likely to be based on a statement by his party last month which talked about the need to accelerate the transformation away from apartheid.

"I don't expect any major announcements - he will be leaving the details to his ministers over the next few weeks... but he will want to underline the need to get on with transformation," said a source in the presidential staff.

Another source said Mandela would be "setting the scene for accelerated transformation" on the back of economic growth.

Mandela's ANC, which won 62 percent of the vote in South Africa's first all-race polls nearly two years ago, is coping under fire from impoverished blacks for the slow delivery of what many see as the legitimate fruits of democracy.

The housing backlog has grown during the first two years of democracy to at least 1.5 million units; schooling is still based on the apartheid model that favours pupils in traditionally white areas and the country's 40 percent unemployment rate hits blacks much harder than whites.

The government has given notice of legislation this year to bring equality to schooling, electricity supply, drinking water access and medical care.

It plans to promote freedom of information and economic competition as well as policies to fight a spiralling crime wave that has hit South Africa hard recently.

The government's plans for the coming year should become clear when Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg tables his budget next month. He is expected to try and boost growth without fuelling inflation or a budget deficit predicted to be about 6 percent of GDP this year.

Four die in French storms

BAYONNE, France (AP) - Violent thunderstorms accompanied by winds of up to 144 km an hour killed four people, caused heavy damage, and left some 200,000 homes without electricity in southwest France, officials said yesterday.

The heavy winds sent rooftops flying, cut power lines, uprooted trees, and prevented access to the commercial fishing ports in Bayonne, Hendaye and Saint-Jean-de-Luz near the Spanish border, officials reported.

Some 200,000 homes were without electricity yesterday along the Atlantic Coast, the national power company Electricite de France reported.

Rescuers found the body of a man buried inside his bulldozer by a landslide in the town of Tardets in the Atlantic-Pyrenees department in the French Basque country near the Spanish border.

A second man, an employee for the Dassault airplane builder, was killed by a container lifted off the ground by heavy winds, officials said.

In Bordeaux on the Atlantic Coast a falling tree killed a 60-year-old man, officials reported. Earlier rescue workers had identified the victim as a 73-year-old woman.

Firemen discovered the body of a fourth victim on the banks of the Garonne River in the village of Saint-Louis-de-Montferand. Officials said the unidentified man was probably surprised by the rapidly rising waters that forced the evacuation of hundreds of people.

The heavy winds also injured several people across the Gironde department, including eight firemen and a gendarme on rescue missions.

Natan Sharansky in a realist's paradise

Ten years after his dramatic arrival, the former Prisoner of Zion has gone from national symbol to political activist, Abraham Rabinovich writes

The trip from hell to paradise, as Natan (Anatoly) Sharansky would term it, took only two days. Within 48 hours of his departure from Moscow's Lefortovo Prison he had arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport.

It would take another week before Sharansky was able to detach himself from the warm, clamorous attention of the leaders of the nation, the public, and the world media. With his wife, Avital, from whom he had been separated for 12 years, he escaped to Safed for their first holiday together.

"I remember waking the first morning in this huge hotel room 20 times bigger than my isolation cell," he recalled this week, on the eve of the 10th anniversary of his arrival in Israel.

"There was a blossoming almond tree reaching up to our balcony on the second floor. I

went out and saw these small birds, Palestine sunbirds, on the branches singing. I said to Avital, 'Look, it's paradise,' and I moved the bed out on the balcony. I had not only arrived in a spiritual paradise but a literal paradise."

A decade later, Sharansky laughingly admits that the only direction one can go from that peak is down. "I've had my car stolen. I do army reserve duty. I've been deceived by a contractor, and I pay 45 percent taxes," he says. "How much more Israeli can I be than that?"

Nevertheless, he still hears bird-song in the blossoming trees — "Inevitably I became more realistic, but for me this is still paradise."

A romanticized image of Israel had sustained him — along with thoughts of Avital and the chess games he played in his head — as he lay on the cold floor of isolation cells or in the frigid gulag during his nine years of incarceration. As

the symbol of the Jewish emigration movement, Sharansky constituted a walking proclamation of defiance that a totalitarian system like the Soviet Union's could not tolerate, lest he serve as an example to others.

"Their object wasn't to kill people like me but to have us say we were wrong and they were right," Sharansky says.

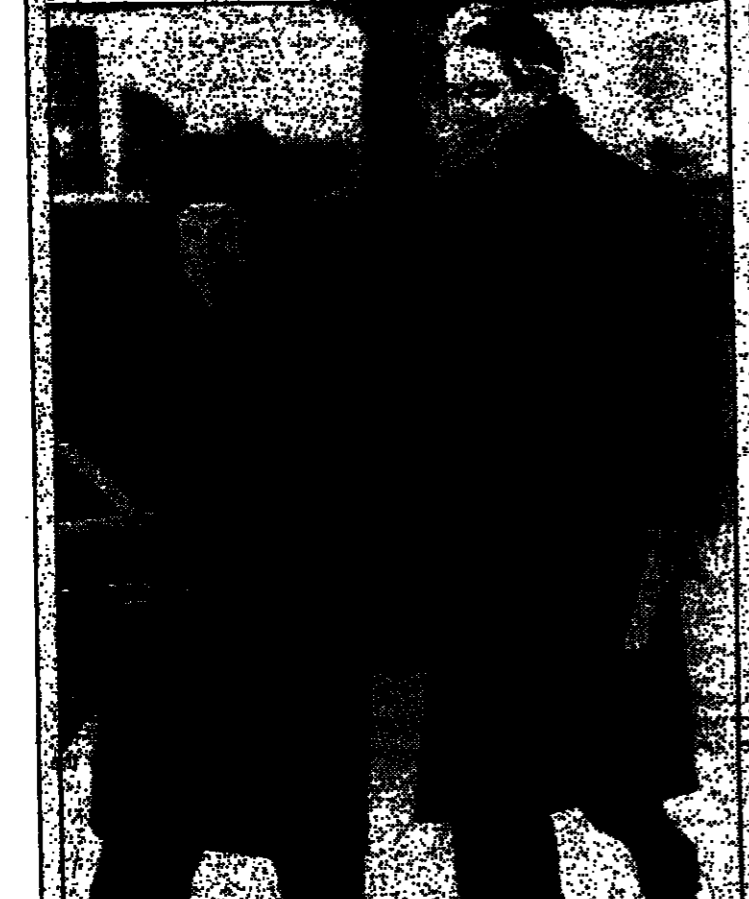
This he consistently refused to do, at great personal cost. He is convinced that the Jewish emigration movement, with its tens of thousands of people who publicly said they wanted out of the system, was a major factor in the chain of events that led to the downfall of communist rule.

Instead of surrendering his personal vision of Israel to reality upon arriving in Jerusalem, he chose to coerce reality into that vision — one that foresaw a massive immigration of highly educated Soviet Jewry. Contrary to prevailing establishment opinion in Israel and world Jewry, he was convinced that at least 400,000 Soviet Jews would come in a first wave if Moscow opened its gates.

When it was announced that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would visit Washington in December 1987, Sharansky attempted to persuade American Jewish leaders to organize a demonstration of 400,000 Jews in Washington as a mirror image of the prospective Soviet Jewish emigration.



The tumultuous reception at Ben-Gurion Airport (top) was, Sharansky says, 'a happy blur of all my dreams.' (Above) Now a politician-in-the-making, Sharansky was then a figure unifying all factions; welcoming him are (from left) Yitzhak Shamir, Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, Ariel Sharon and Shimon Peres.



Natan Sharansky's walk across the Gleinick Bridge (with US ambassador Richard Bush) meant freedom for Czech spies Hana Koccherova and Karel Kocber for their part in the spy-for-prisoner exchange.

Spy superstars in a blockbuster trade

It was a dramatic moment that some now say heralded the beginning of the end of the Cold War.

As Natan Sharansky walked in freedom across the Gleinick Bridge into West Berlin, under the full glare of the world's media, two Czech spies, Hana Koccherova and Karel Kocber, went the other way. They were being traded (as part of a wider five-for-four prisoner exchange) by the Americans, back into the hands of their Soviet masters and to an uncertain fate.

Sharansky's record in the 10 years since his release is well known. But what of those with whom he was swapped? One might have expected the "ensuing decade, which saw the collapse of the Communist system the Kocbers had done so much to uphold, to have treated them badly. Far from it.

Working as an accomplice to one of the leading spies of the Cold War era is not usually the best qualification for a plum job at the commercial section of the British Embassy in Prague. But there were some red faces at her messy, messy mission last year after it was revealed in a Czech newspaper (during a brief case) that she is exactly where Koccherova walked from February 1993 to June 1994.

In spite of their story being well-documented in Robert Kessler's book *Spy versus Spy* and in numerous magazine reports, the British foreign office seemed to have been unaware of her past.

In fact, she has quite a curriculum vitae. Recruited in 1962, and trained for two years before being sent to the US in 1965, where they were granted political asylum. Kocber worked for Radio Free Europe, studied at Columbia University (she was a national security adviser), and from 1973 worked as a translator at CIA headquarters.

Hana, meanwhile, is alleged to have been paid by the KGB to act as his courier. From 1973 to 1983 she supposedly delivered photographs and other documents which had been stolen from CIA headquarters to Czech agents she met with on several occasions in New York, Vienna, and also on a trip back to see her family in Czechoslovakia.

In December 1984, Karel was indicted on espionage charges by a federal grand jury in New York. Aiming to use her as a prosecution witness, Hana was granted immunity. But in 1984, she too, was arrested and imprisoned after refusing to take the stand against her husband.

On February 3, 1986, a few days before being swapped for Sharansky, Karel pleaded guilty to espionage.

Hana, meanwhile, continues to maintain her innocence, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, including sworn FBI affidavits given to the New York court sitting that during interrogations she had admitted to being trained as a spy. Last year, the Prague court also upheld the accusations against her.

The publicity surrounding them did not subside at the time of their exchange. In 1986, as late as February 1992, the same month Koccherova was interviewed for her embassy job, *The Washington Times* ran a 1,000-word commentary piece about the Kocber case, which it called "one of the best ever best-sellers of the CIA."

British embassy officials, however, remain tight-lipped about Koccherova's employment, denying that she had access to classified material while at the embassy.

It seems that her hiring was more a monumental foul-up by the British Foreign Office, revealing major flaws in vetting procedures rather than some bizarre post-Cold War game of double bluff.

"This certainly wouldn't have happened in the Soviet Union," says Sharansky. "They knew very well how to check three or four generations back there."

the past five years surpassed even Sharansky's initial expectations. Has their absorption been a success?

"In terms of immigrant absorption, if we were talking about a normal state, it has been a super success," he says. "All these people who arrived in such a short time have housing, they're working, they're being educated. But if we're talking about integration, about a Zionist state with a vision, we are failing."

The current immigration is one of the best things that has ever happened to Israel, Sharansky notes, but Israel doesn't truly appreciate it.

In the wake of the Ethiopian "intifada" last week in Jerusalem, one of the Russian-language newspapers published a cartoon of an Ethiopian immigrant consoling an "AIDS" sticker by saying, "At least they're not calling you mafia, prostitutes or document forgers."

Some 9,000 ex-Soviet scientists have come in the current wave of immigration, a boon to any country. But about 1,000 have left, he notes, and for more than a year almost none have come.

Sharansky's proposal for the creation of a Weizmann Institute-type facility in the Galilee to attract the cream of Russian scientists remaining in Jerusalem.

"Every economist will tell you that Israel's economic growth in the last five years is due to this immigration," Sharansky says. "Even though the immigrants are not being used to their full potential — only 30 percent are working in their professions. At the same time, half the children under the poverty line are Russian immigrants." Although every Israeli is living better because of the new immigrants, he says, there is a widespread feeling that the Russians are parasites living at the generosity of the veteran population.

"We have to give people an awareness that their future, including their economic future, is linked to Russian immigration," he says.

With changed priorities, he says, Israel can draw another million immigrants from the former Soviet Union — "of course, 30 percent of them non-Jews," a reference to spouses and other relatives of immigrating Jews — in the next five to seven years, he says.

Beginning with money he raised in the US, Sharansky founded the Zionist Forum, which has served the Russian immigrants as a lobbying body as well as providing practical assistance ranging from counseling to second mortgages. When the establishment declined to help establish a Russian-language theater in Israel, he raised

the money in the US which enabled the launching of the highly acclaimed Gesher Theater, which performs now in Hebrew as well as Russian.

Today most of the forum's \$1.5 million budget is met by the Jewish Agency.

NOW 48, Sharansky will within a few days embark on a new adventure — the establishment of a political party that will run in the upcoming "elections." Called Yisrael B'Aliya ("Israel on the Ascent," but also a play on the word *aliya*, immigration), it hopes to draw votes not only from Russian immigrants but from people interested in a centrist party that places priority on a high level of education and on "Jewish education that unites people, rather than divides them."

On the political questions separating the major parties, Sharansky places himself in the center.

"We will be in a position to enter negotiations with either Bibi [Netanyahu] or Shimon [Peres]," he says. "Our problem with Shimon is not the direction he wants to go but the speed."

Sharansky had ample opportunity to enter the Knesset in the past on the tickets of several parties, but at the head of his own party he hopes to be in a position to truly influence national policies.

There are many who feel that an ethnic immigrant party contradicts the very notion of integration. Sharansky argues that it will help the immigrants integrate by becoming part of the political system. If he is elected, the challenge for him will be to weaken the establishment's nose while being part of the establishment itself.

Sharansky has not been back to Russia since he left it, but he intends to make the trip one day.

"The main reason would be to visit my father's grave. I haven't been there yet," he says.

He also admits to being curious about seeing his KGB file.

His daughters — Rabel, nine, and Hanna, seven — and his wife provide the solace he had imagined a

family would during the long prison nights. Each year on the anniversary of his arrival in Israel, they celebrate a "second seder" together, watching the video clips of his own exodus from "Egypt" to freedom.

They view him being expelled from communist territory as part of a prisoner exchange across the Gleinick Bridge in Berlin on February 11, 1986, wearing a black fur hat and an oversized coat, then the tumultuous reception at Ben-Gurion Airport and his visit to the Western Wall.

"Each time I see those pictures I realize that I don't actually remember anything of what happened then, that back then it was just one big happy blur of all the dreams I had dreamed hundreds of times coming true," he reflects.

"When you are living a dream you see everything only in general. You don't see the details."

His warm home life plainly feeds his inner strength and his cheerful disposition. There had been many who predicted that Avital's adoption of a religious lifestyle during their years apart would inevitably create intolerable tensions unless she or he changed.

"Everything at home is working

great," he says readily when the subject is raised. "Shabbat at home is Shabbat; no television. I recommend it for everybody. Each of us is moving in the direction of Judaism at his own speed. It succeeds because there is love and respect and an understanding that you can only succeed together. We don't regard it as compromise."

His circle of friends is made up of immigrants from many countries as well as sabras. He still plays chess occasionally and takes long walks as often as he can, but his favorite pastime is to pack the family into a car and take a ride into the country.

"I would have liked to have 10 daughters," he says, the closest note to regret that he sounds during the interview.

In a country where one's headgear, or lack of it, generally signals one's religious world view, Sharansky has retained armed neutrality by adopting an incongruous khaki army forage cap which he generally wears in public. Determined as he has proven himself to be as a fighter for a cause, he has until now sought to avoid any political commitment — beyond his efforts to improve the lot of Russian immigrants — that would identify him as a member of a particular camp in Israel.

"If I had been asked in prison whether I felt a spiritual link to the political right or the left in Israel or to the religious or nonreligious, I would have thought it crazy," he says. "Your strength derives from feeling that you are part of a people living through an historical struggle that has been going on since the exodus from Egypt. I didn't want to take sides."

If he is elected to the Knesset, the luxury of being above the battle will no longer be his. He may prove a natural choice for Israel's presidency in another 20 years, but he will first have to bruise himself in the corridors of the Knesset where even national symbols have to choose sides.

If his spirit and optimism survived the Soviet penal system, however, there is a reasonable chance it will survive partisan politics as well.

"Real life is challenges and problems which you thought you had overcome returning to life," he says. "But I still believe, and I live with this feeling, that with all the problems, this is paradise."

SHARANSKY ADMITS to having bawled feelings of bitterness at the Jewish establishment's opposition to ideas which seemed obvious to him.

"That's where the pressure was," he points out. Gorbachev would thereafter find it impossible to close the gates to other forms of liberalization as well, with enormous consequences.

"There were absolutely stupid attacks on me," he says. "One American Jewish leader said that if I did not stop my behavior I would be replaced by Yosef Begun, who had just been released by the Soviets."

"I learned that if you want to change things you have to challenge the establishment, which is by nature conservative. You have to irritate it, to wake it up. Then you have to start doing what you want done. When the establishment sees it beginning to work, they will join you and then they will take the credit."

"But that's good. The idea isn't to destroy the establishment. You have no other power base. One thing about being in prison is that it gives you a sense of proportion about what's important."

The inflow of 650,000 Jews in

the past five years surpassed even Sharansky's initial expectations. Has their absorption been a success?

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The In Jerusalem Supplement

Ba'kehila

(formerly "Religious Life in Jerusalem")

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Mandel expects to seek economic change

Four diet French stars

Resettling the settlers

Settlers who want to leave the areas have received little sympathy from the government, Ruth Mason reports

They were looking to leave their kibbutz and buy an affordable home. The ad, taken out by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, was targeted at young families like them, suggesting they settle in Ma'aleh Ephraim, a new town over the Green Line in the Jordan Valley.

The ad said that Ma'aleh Ephraim was designated as a development town in Area A, meaning residents would receive tax breaks, good mortgage terms and other incentives. It described three- and four-room private homes with yards and offered financial help to those who chose to make the move.

The ad listed the many kinds of occupations that were needed in Ma'aleh Ephraim and extolled the high quality of the dwellings there, the beautiful view, the pleasant climate and the challenge of participating in the building of a new town.

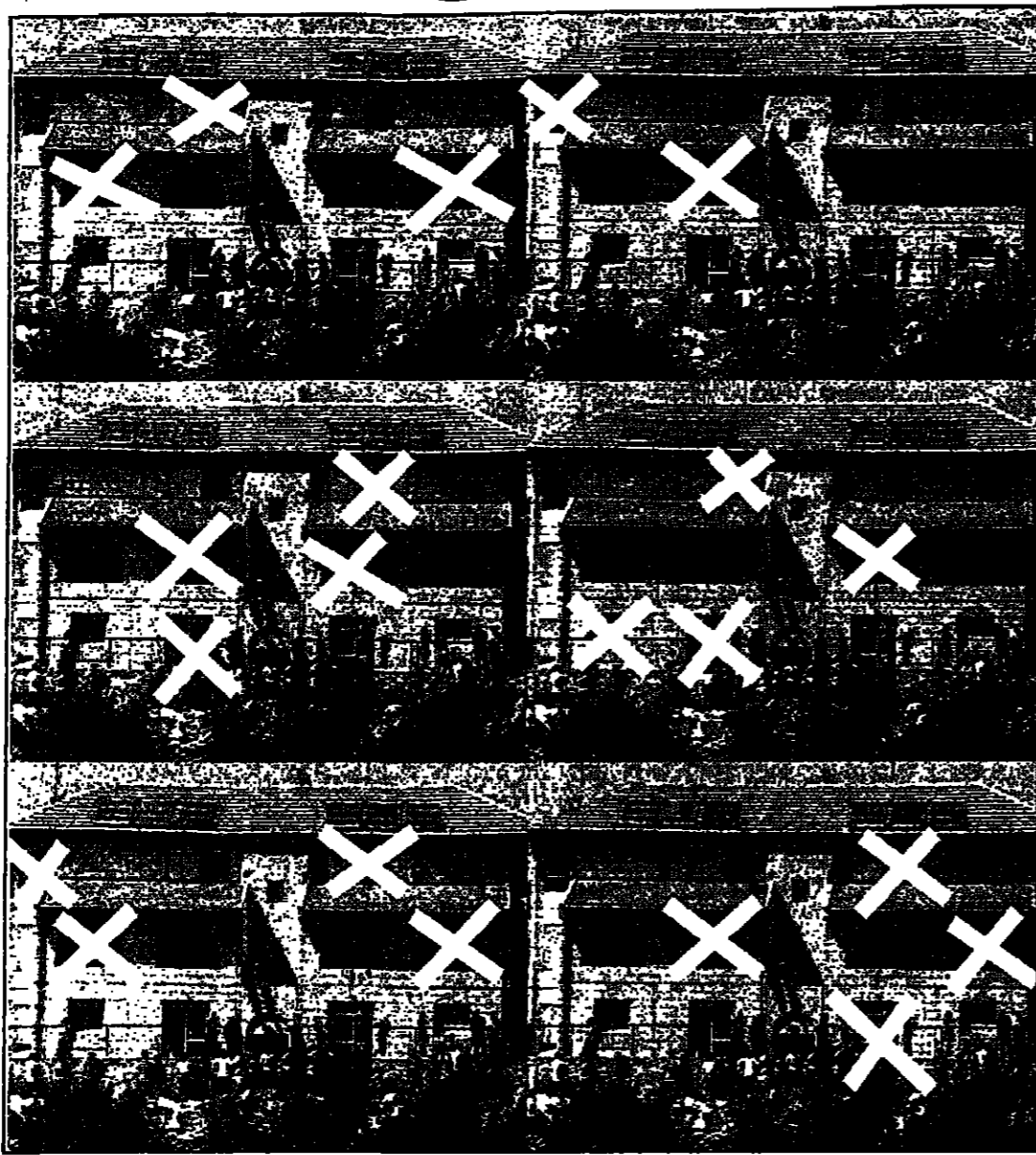
The Selas were taken with the idea. But they did not want to build their lives in a place that might some day be relinquished in a political settlement.

So Ami Sela wrote to Shimon Peres, then head of the Labor Party, to ask about the party's policy regarding this area of Judea and Samaria. Peres wrote, "The Bik'a [Jordan Valley, Gush Etzion and Jerusalem must remain outside of any negotiations."

On the basis of this letter, Ami Sela and his family moved to Ma'aleh Ephraim. Now, 16 years and one peace process later, the Selas feel betrayed.

"It's a simple matter," says Sela. "For many years, successive governments encouraged people to come here. In the last two years, the present government changed its mind. It should now take responsibility."

"The government is deviating from any acceptable moral standard. It is saying it will leave us within [areas controlled by the] Palestinian Authority. The government is telling us: This is your problem. You were Israelis, now you can be Palestinians."



Some homes in Kiryat Arba may empty of residents as settlers choose to cross the Green Line. (Flash 90)

Labor gets a surprise from the territories

Two thousand residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza have registered themselves as Labor Party members. Labor Party spokesman Yoram Dori expressed "great satisfaction" with the results. "The numbers testify to the fact that there are, among the settlers, those who understand what is good for the country and what is good for them. We see this as an expression of confidence in the government and in the prime minister. It's clear to them [settlers who support Labor] that Jerusalem will be the eternal, united capital of Israel; that we will not go back to the 1967 borders; and that the Jordan River will remain Israel's security border."

Those registering with Labor include 383 people

are giving up, homes that are now worth a fraction of their original value.

A three-room apartment in Kiryat Arba now fetches less than NIS 100,000 about a fifth of the price of a comparable apartment inside the Green Line.

"The government could alleviate some of this anxiety and the explosiveness of the situation if it began compensating settlers —

maybe not all, but those in more problematic areas."

At the end of January, approximately 120 settlers who want to move met in Kiryat Arba to express their concerns. The group originally asked the Kiryat Arba Community Center for a room for the meeting, but they were turned down. They decided to meet in a private shelter, but when more than 100 people showed up, they moved the meeting outdoors.

Mossi Raz, political secretary

of Peace Now, who is helping these settlers, says some participants said their bosses had threatened to fire them if they attended the meeting. He added that "if, despite this fear and the cold, so many people came, it proves that the number of people who want to leave is very high."

"In September, Peace Now commissioned a poll by Modi'in Ezrahi which showed that 40% of settlers want to leave in exchange for compensation. (Twenty-eight percent said they

definitely or probably want to leave; 12% said they may want to leave. In some areas, such as Kiryat Arba, Ma'aleh Ephraim, Alfei Menashe, Ariel and Emanuel, the percentage of those who said they want to leave reached 51%.)

THE NUMBER of phone calls to the Peace Now office from settlers who want to leave increased after Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, Raz says, but he does not know whether to attribute this to the murder or to the IDF pullout from areas in Judea and Samaria.

Meretz MK's Anat Maor and Benny Temkin also attended the meeting and called on the government to help evacuate residents who want to leave and to at least consider temporary solutions such as help with renting apartments.

"They can't leave without financial help," says Raz. "Their apartments are now worthless."

"It's our right to ask to leave and it's the government's duty to help us," says Sima Mizrahi, a Kiryat Arba resident who organized the meeting. "When I moved here 20 years ago, I needed the government and they needed me," says Mizrahi, who was injured in a bus attack during the intifada.

"The government encouraged, even pushed us to move here out of ideological reasons. How good, they said, it is to strengthen the settlements that are over the Green Line. Today, the situation has changed."

The settlers, some of whom, with the help of Peace Now, formed a non-profit organization called Settlers for Voluntary Evacuation, have turned to the government but, they say, they have not been given satisfactory answers.

Peace Now developed a compensation program which they sent to the government but they have not yet had a response, says Raz.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres's spokesperson, Aliza Goren, says only that "We can't deal with compensation or alternative housing while there is no government decision on the matter."

Some people feel that those who moved to the territories knew the risk they were taking and moved anyway. Now they need to face the music.

Others are more sympathetic. "In the end, many settlements will be evacuated and the government will pay compensation," predicts Raz.

"A long-term set of policies created this situation," says a source close to the settlers. "The government has always had an ambivalent policy of half-promoting, half-fighting the settlers. The government intended to secure the territory provisionally without having a long-term vision of what it would mean for people to set up their lives there. I put much more blame on the government than on the settlers."

Channel-surfing with Likud

THE WEEK THAT WAS
MICHAL YUDELMAN

GONE are the pompous and traditional party conventions of yore that launched election campaigns. These days, you know that the time is here when the political seniority of those yelling at one another on television rises rapidly.

Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu kick-started this year's wacky races. In an over-long prime-time interview conducted by Dan Shilon on Channel 2's *Live Broadcast*, Bibi endeavored to present his credentials as prime minister right stuff.

At the same time, he was challenged in absentia on a Channel 1 *Popolitika* episode which was even more farcical than usual.

Viewers could switch from watching Bibi list the advantages of the Likud-Tsomet single list agreement to Labor's David Mena and Ovadia Eli savages the agreement on *Popolitika*.

Labor Interior Minister Haim Ramon, expected to head the party information machine, waded in to declare the Likud-Tsomet pact a symptom of panic. Typically, Ramon said, Bibi under pressure jumps to impulsive conclusions and makes the wrong decisions — "one more reason not to vote for him as prime minister."

While Bibi charmed Channel 2's cameras with his telegenic profile and political agenda, a slightly chubbier Bibi — impersonated by comedian Tuva Tsafir — in a bright green blazer played out a vulgar but funny satire of his "sizzling cassette" infidelity affair on Channel 1. "I'm Bibi Clinton the second," Tsafir sang, mocking the Americanization of Israeli politics.

WORDS ON WOMEN

Bibi stood firmly pro-choice on abortion, upholding a woman's rights regarding her own body.

On *Popolitika*, MK Tamar Gozansky (*Hadash*) wrangled with Degel Hatorah's Moshe Gafni over the right of a Knesset member's common-law wife to his pension after the man's death.

Business star Pnina Rosenblum, who once expressed Knesset ambitions, supported Gozansky's legislative initiative to guarantee pension rights for MKs' loyal, though unwed, life partners.

"We wouldn't be in this fix to start with if it weren't for religious coercion," she said.

The journalist wife of MK Silvan Shalom (*Likud*), Judy Nir-Shalom-Moses, somehow missed the point of the debate and zoomed off on a tirade against older men who become rich and famous, jilt the faithful wives who have aged alongside them, and skip off with some "spring chicken." You've been warned, Silvan!

This left poor Rabbi Cafni, who up to here had held his own quite well, somewhat baffled. He politely asked for someone to explain what "spring chicken" meant.

It's a type of foul, Rabbi, not a fowl.

ASSA'S BACK

Remember Haim Assa, prime

minister Yitzhak Rabin's controversial strategy adviser who was kicked out after the elections?

Assa claimed he fell from Rabin's grace due to intrigues by Rabin's close aides. Now he's on his way to a key role in Labor's campaign.

About a year ago, the media reported caustic criticism of Rabin supposedly would appear in a book by Assa, once more irking the premier's office. Assa was accused of plotting revenge for being cast out of the inner circle.

All has changed. At Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zivli's birthday party in Gili Yam's Provincia cafe last week, there was Assa, hobnobbing with Shimon Peres, Ehud Barak, Binyamin "Fuad" Ben-Eliezer, Shimon Shetret, David Liba'i, and Knesset members. One of the guys again.

Fuad, now confident of being asked to run Labor's campaign, was asked if he would work with Assa, as he did in 1992. Fuad's answer was unequivocal: "I'm sure I will."

Assa's book, *Essentiality* (Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 1995), hit the book shops last week, but anyone looking for that alleged scathing attack on Rabin and his government will be disappointed.

The worst criticism in the book, which analyzes the tasks for democracy on the threshold of the 21st century, centers on the "irrelevance of Israeli leaders."

"No Israeli leader in the third period had, or has, any clear political code. Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin, Menachem Begin, Yitzhak Shamir and Rabin again, represent anachronistic modes of thought and a complete lack of understanding anything related to the society they are supposed to lead."

CRUSADING CARPENTER

Imagine Rafael "Rafal" Eitan, who never tired of bashing the haredim and harping on their draft evasion, sporting a kippa and body preaching the halachic way of life.

Rafal's dash into the arms of the Likud, which boasts support from both the religious and haredi camps, makes even this absurdity possible.

Shas's Aryeh Deri was the first to see the potential. "We are pleased to see Tsomet part of the Likud," he said, a tad ironically perhaps. He added he would like nothing better than to see Rafal in a kippa defending the status quo.

"This is just what Rafal will have to do once inside the Likud. Tsomet had already lost its politically-clean, honest-Joe image before the merger. It shouldn't have any trouble shaking off its antireligious coercion, pro-freedom-of-choice ideology.

So are we to see Rafal's ruddy, sun-roughened cheeks set off by sidelocks and tefillin binding those muscular biceps? Will his honest farmer's hands, gnarled from driving the plow and building wooden stools, be raised in defense of the holy places?

Far-fetched? Rafal went on the air this week to state: "We are not antireligious. I am the only one [among party leaders] to say the altar of Joshua Bin-Nun is sacred!"

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מיכל יודלמן

Czech mates

CHESS
NICK KOPALOFF

Few countries take such a genuine pride in their Jewish heritage as the Czech Republic. In some Czech circles one can even gain a certain credibility if one can trace some distant Jewish lineage in the family.

It was only upon my return from a recent visit there that I learned that two of the country's foremost chess players were in fact Jewish. Solomon Mikhalovitch, alias Salo Flohr, was born in Ukraine in 1908. During World War I, he was orphaned and moved to Czechoslovakia to escape a porom.

He quickly gained a reputation as an outstanding chess player while in his teens, and started to make a living by playing chess for stakes in Prague cafes. It is said that during the Berlin tournament of 1928 Flohr discovered chess was being played for stakes in a room adjoining the tournament hall. Within days he had taken money from everyone there and by the end of the official tournament most of the prize money had found its way into Flohr's pocket. He apparently had to lend one or two of his victims money for the fare home.

According to Anne Sunnuck's *Encyclopaedia of Chess*, Flohr became a national hero in Czechoslovakia - Salo Flohr collars, Flohr slippers, Flohr cigarettes and even Flohr eau de Cologne appeared on the market. In 1937 Flohr was selected by FIDE as official challenger for Alexander Alekhine's World Championship title, but Germany's invasion of Czechoslovakia ended that dream, and the wandering Jew returned to Russia. Flohr never truly recaptured his previous form. He adopted an overcautious approach to the game and became known as a draw expert.

Perhaps Czechoslovakia's most famous player was Richard Reti, who was born in Pezinok in 1889. He is remembered more as a theoretician than a player.

His best-seller, *Modern Ideas in Chess*, revolutionized chess theory by introducing avant-garde hypermodern elements into it. Here he aesthetically demolished world champion-to-be Max Euwe.

Euwe, Max - Reti, Richard
Amsterdam 1920
Two Knights Defence

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4: Euwe chooses not to enter the well-trodden Fried Liver or Wilkes Barr lines with 4.Ng5 4...exd4 5.0-0 Nxe4: Reti prefers to avoid the dangerous

line 5...Bc5 which allows White to play the dreaded Max Lange attack with 6.e5 6.Re1 d5 7.Bxd5 Qxd5 8.Nc3 Qa5: Two other adequate alternatives for Black are 8...Qh4 and 8...Qd8 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4: In his monumental book *Modern Chess Openings*, Walter Korn recommends 10.Nxe4.

10...f5 11.Bg5 Qc5 12.Qd8+ Kf7 13.Nxe4 fxe4 14.Rad1 Bd6 15.Qxh8 Qxg5 16.f4? Qh4 17.Rxe4

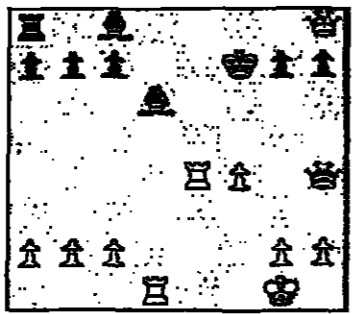


DIAGRAM 1
after White's 17th move

17...Bh3!!: Having been seemingly tied up for most of this short game Reti unleashes his decisive attack, offering the sacrifice of his own rook on a1 in the process. White has no choice but to accept. 18.Qxa1 Bc5+ 19.Kh1 Bxg2+! 20.Kxg2 Qg4+ 21.Kf1 Qf3+ 22.Kel Qf2+ 0-1

From the following classic problem composed by Richard Reti, the caption White to play and draw would appear to be a misprint. Black's passed pawn is out of reach of the White king and is well on its way to a promotion, while the Black monarch comfortably checks the advance of White's c pawn. Nevertheless, amazingly, White can force a draw.

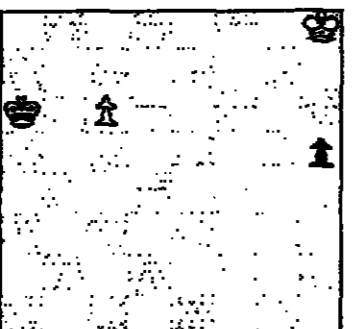


DIAGRAM 2

Solution: 1. Kg7 h4 2. Kf6 Kb6 ; 2...h3 3. Ke7 h2 4. c7 Kb7 5. Kd7 3. Ke5 h3 ; 3...Kc6 4. Kf4 catches the pawn 4. Kd6 h2 5. c2 0.5 0.5



This is the only season in which many wildflowers can be seen.

Looking for wildflowers

NATURE
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Although it is still winter, there are many wildflowers to look for on a quiet stroll. While some are less remarkable than the big anemones, they are beautiful and, for many, this is the only season when they can be seen and appreciated.

Some of them are common only to the desert areas, while others grow over most of the country.

One very special plant is the desert stork's bill, *Erodium toucayanum* in Latin and beloved by Israelis children as *mekor hahasidim*. This is a perennial herb of the geranium family found in the Negev and the Judean Desert. It is a low-lying plant with pink flowers, but it is the elongated, sharp-ended seed pod that gives it its name in both English and Hebrew.

The second flower of this family, the mallow-leaved stork's bill, is also a type of geranium that grows all over the country. It is also pink but with a smaller seed pod. Both of these flowers bloom from February to April. For a dash of color there are

terran, and the plants are domed and found in groups. They also bloom into April.

Don't forget the beauty of the white wildflowers - mayweed, chamomile, *Artemis leucanthemifolia* or *kachvan habof*, and the southern daisy, *Bellis silvestris* or *hinanit habatah*. Both of these are white flowers with bright yellow centers, the mayweed having flowers that are much larger than the little daisy. Both bloom from December to March.

And then there is corn salad - better known to some as valerian, *Valeriana discordalis* or, in Hebrew, *valerian ialiki*. A perennial valerian, its roots have the well-known valerian scent familiar from cat-nip. The stalk is tall with pink and white flowers. But we can't conclude this very partial list without mentioning mountain knotgrass, *Paronychia argentea*, or *almavet hakessef*. This prostrate shrub grows in rocky crevices in the Mediterranean area, is a member of the pink family and has small flowers that last a long time. It can be found from January right up until June.

And for a real carpet of flowers, look for the yellow Jerusalem spurge, *Euphorbia hierosolymitana* - called *halaviv megubshash* in Hebrew. It grows throughout the entire Mediterranean region in rocky

Bridge world remembers Reese

BRIDGE
MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
East-West vulnerable
North
♠ Q6
♥ AQJ95
♦ J94
♣ Q74
West
♠ 105
♥ 862
♦ AS2
♣ K10653
East
♠ J94
♥ 73
♦ KQ107
♣ AS82
South West North East
1 ♠ pass 2 ♥ pass
3 ♥ pass 3 ♣ pass
4 ♠ (all pass)
Opening lead: ♠5

Terence Reese, one of the world's most famous bridge players and authors, died last week at the age of 83.

Reese was born in London in 1913, learned to play bridge at the age of six, and began playing in tournaments at 14. He went on to become a World Bridge Federation Grand Master, representing Great Britain in numerous European and World Championships.

Reese will go down in history as the world's most prolific and popular bridge author. Since 1955, Reese has been writing bestselling bridge books, newspaper columns for the *London Observer* and *Evening News*, and regular articles for magazines such as *The Bridge World*, *Australian Bridge*, *British Bridge* and *Bridge Today*.

Reese had the unique ability to write for both experts and beginners. His most famous book was *Play Bridge With Reese*, written early in his career. His last two books, published in 1995, were *That Elusive Extra Trick*, written in collaboration with David Bird, and *Learn Bridge in Five Days*.

Reese was known for his great concentration at the table. I had the personal honor of meeting him 20 years ago in London. I was there for the Sunday Times Pairs, an invitational event.

The following week, my partner, Sam Stayman, Reese, Boris Schapiro and I boarded a train to Leeds to play an exhibition match against four members of the Israeli team, winners of the 1975 European Championships (Micha Hochzeit, Shaya Levitt, Julian Frydreich, and Elyakim Shaufel).

During the train ride, Reese was involved in a friendly game of backgammon with Stayman. When the rest of us got off at Leeds, however, Reese and Stayman couldn't be found. They were so immersed in their backgammon game that they had forgotten to get off the train. We flagged down the train as it started to pull out of the station and quickly retrieved them.

Perhaps the most humorous story about Reese is the one in which a bet was made at the rubber bridge club on whether Reese would be distracted by a nude kibitzer. She was seated near Reese as he played a difficult game contract. Reese made his contract, never losing his concentration.

Today's deal is from Reese's best book for advancing players, *Master Play*, first published 36 years ago. Since then it has been read by nearly every bridge player who has ever had the ambition to become an expert.

After a light opening bid, South reached four spades. As you can see, the defenders can take four tricks and defeat the contract, but if they fail to do so immediately, declarer can draw trumps and run his heart suit, discarding minor suit losers from the South hand.

West led the five of clubs to East's ace. East switched to the king of diamonds and followed with the seven to West's ace. Now West did not know which minor-suit trick to attempt to cash.

When he played the king of clubs, declarer ruffed and made his contract. West claimed that he simply guessed wrong.

Couldn't his partner have held five diamonds and three clubs? But Reese explains that a defender in the West position must ask himself the following question: "Is there anything in my partner's play up to now that does not fit in with the picture of the hand on which my intended play is based?"

If East had held five diamonds to the king-queen, it would have been his clear duty, after cashing the king of diamonds, to cash the queen, intending to hold the lead and switch to clubs himself.

THE ISRAELI International Bridge Festival begins Thursday, February 15, at 4 p.m. with a two-session Mixed Team of Four at the Ramada Inn in Tel Aviv. For more information, phone (04) 833-5333 or (03) 605-8355.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Bill on the line expresses agreement (6)
 - Badly cut, seal (8)
 - Found and copied (6)
 - Home sadly lost nail (8)
 - Rolls of bread initially well turned (4)
 - Heavenly food for many a girl (5)
 - Nothing more than two notes (4)
 - Sporadic localities (4,3,5)
 - Workers disturb the bard, in some measure (5,7)
 - Certainly nothing to chatter about (4)
 - The way part of a match turns into matches (5)
- DOWN**
- The English way? Ah, no—but a foreign sort (8)
 - Wine found in many picnic baskets (8)
 - Look up and be dizzy (4)
 - Dinner suits vary in different countries? (5,6)
 - They may be found in a creel, squirming (4)
- 25** Cunning, in the main (4)
- 28** Lashes about the favourite dogs (8)
- 29** Profession has run rapidly out of control (6)
- 30** A light sweet (5-3)
- 31** He arranges the grave stones to be assembled about ten (6)
- 7** Left in play (6)
- 8** American combination of bets (6)
- 11** They have grounds for belonging to the upper classes (6,6)
- 15** Tropical bird with head of myna and cry of a rook (5)
- 16** Fresh information about the interior (5)
- 18** Any one of the following (8)
- 19** Talking tea with Evita requires a third party present (8)
- 21** Horse and trap showing sign of neglect (6)
- 23** Man takes lead in play (6)
- 26** Pass provided for health resorts (4)
- 27** Found to be contemptible (4)

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1. BILL, 2. NAIL, 3. COPY, 4. HOME, 5. ROLLS, 6. HEAVENLY, 7. NOTHING, 8. SPORADIC, 9. WORKERS, 10. CHATTER, 11. WAY, 12. CUNNING, 13. LASHES, 14. PROFESSION, 15. LIGHT, 16. FRESH, 17. ANY, 18. TALKING, 19. TEA, 20. HORSE, 21. SIGN, 22. MAN, 23. LEAD, 24. PASS, 25. CUNNING, 26. HEALTH, 27. FOUND, 28. LASHES, 29. PROFESSION, 30. LIGHT, 31. HEAVENLY.

DOWN: 1. THE, 2. WINE, 3. LOOK, 4. DINNER, 5. THEY, 6. LEFT, 7. AMERICAN, 8. BILLS, 9. TROPICAL, 10. MYNA, 11. INFORMATION, 12. ANY, 13. TALKING, 14. HORSE, 15. SIGN, 16. MAN, 17. LEAD, 18. PASS, 19. FOUND, 20. HEALTH, 21. FOUND, 22. MAN, 23. LEAD, 24. PASS, 25. CUNNING, 26. HEALTH, 27. FOUND, 28. LASHES, 29. PROFESSION, 30. LIGHT, 31. HEAVENLY.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Broth (4)
- Authorised (8)
- In front (5)
- Forbear (7)
- Fasten (3)
- Snowslide (9)
- Motive (6)
- First child of Jacob (6)
- Reproduce (9)
- Sheep (3)
- Speech (7)
- Angry (5)
- Perpetuity (8)
- Obligation (4)

DOWN

- Begin (5)
- Employ (3)
- Conventional (6)
- Incite (7)
- Testy (9)
- Lamp (7)
- Thought (4)
- Detailed (9)
- Rebuke (7)
- Applause (7)
- Gemstone (6)
- Wicked (4)
- Upright (5)
- Wonder (3)

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A thousand points of light

I'd like to share with our readers the following letter of thanks we received from Yehoshua Ayalon, educational coordinator of the Youth Protection Authority.

"Every year at this time, following Hanukka, it is my special privilege to thank you and all your friends and contributors to your wonderful campaign, including, of course, the readers of *The Jerusalem Post*.

"We, the staff of the Youth Protection Authority, who are responsible for the care of marginal youth and juvenile offenders, benefit every Hanukka from your tremendous help, which is totally devoted to the purchase of games that provide hours of pleasure, positive experiences, learning opportunities, and the acquisition of positive habits of social behavior, particularly the opportunity to voluntarily obey rules for cooperation with others.

"This year, we were privileged to receive your contribution, with which we purchased many dozens of games and balls that undoubtedly have a very positive effect on the leisure-time hours and social activities of these youngsters.

"Therefore, on behalf of the students and management of the Youth Protection Authority, I would like to extend our gratitude and best wishes from the bottom of our hearts to yours."

Need we say more? Please send your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. Donors in the US wishing to receive tax benefits can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

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- \$200 Anon., Beersheba (via P.E.F.), Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Schechter, J'm (via P.E.F.).
- \$100 Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Berkowitz, Silver Spring, MD. Mr. and Mrs. Sheldou Steinberg, Seattle, WA (via P.E.F.). In memory of parents Charles and Julia - Dr. and Mrs. Harold Krivens, Interlaken, NJ (via P.E.F.). Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stamm, Philadelphia, PA (via P.E.F.). Sybil Marcus, Berkeley, CA (via P.E.F.).
- \$50 in memory of parents Susan and Louis Bodek - Henry Bodek, Brooklyn, NY (via P.E.F.).
- \$36 in memory of Solomon and Jennie Epstein - Robert Epstein, Philadelphia, PA (via P.E.F.).
- \$18 in memory of Sylvia Hirsch, Charleston, SC.
- \$10 in celebration of my daughter Cara Lee's 37th birthday, Mazal Tov! - Dada, Fishburn, NJ. In memory of Yitzhak Rabin - Deborah and Myron Kolko, Rochester, NY.
- New Donations Progress Totals
NIS 168,321 NIS 182,146
\$2,751 \$10,380
(Other currencies converted to NIS)

TOY FUND

- NIS 1,000 Sofia Leon, J'm.
- NIS 180 in honor of the bat mitzva of Leora Berner - grandparents Ed and Mona.
- NIS 100 in memory of Oron - Pina and Amos Yarden, Tel Aviv. William Goldfarb, Tel Aviv. In memory of Yitzhak Rabin - Ursula Kroener, J'm.
- NIS 72 Dalia Lamer, J'm.
- NIS 25 in memory of all our loved ones Genesis 4 in Omer.
- \$1,000 Mr. and Mrs. David Silver, Derby, VT (via P.E.F.).
- \$500 Zalman Chaim Bernstein, Philanthropic Fund (via P.E.F.).
- New Donations Progress Totals
NIS 120 NIS 977
\$1320 \$2,650
(Other currencies converted to NIS)

3300 Tikva Olam-USY, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, New York, NY.

\$125 Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Schechter (via P.E.F.). Mr. and Mrs. Martin Rafinowitz, Roseland, NJ (via P.E.F.). Anon., Beersheba (via P.E.F.).

\$126 in honor of our grandchildren Yoni, Domy, Dina and Aryeh Zahler and Jenny, Sarah and Rebecca Krant - Sy and Rochelle Krant, Newton, MA.

\$125 Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bukiet, West Campus, NJ (via P.E.F.).

\$100 Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Berkowitz, Silver Spring, MD. Mr. and Mrs. Sheldou Steinberg (via P.E.F.). In memory of parents David and Jessie Krivens - Dr. and Mrs. Harold Krivens (via P.E.F.). Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stamm (via P.E.F.). Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Gureman, Pittsburgh, PA (via P.E.F.). Sybil Marcus (via P.E.F.).

\$82 Lower School Students of Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy of Greater Kansas City.

\$50 in memory of parents Susan and Louis Bodek - Henry Bodek (via P.E.F.). \$40 Samuel and Deborah Stollman, J'm.

\$36 in memory of Leon and Lillian Epstein and Ruth Loz - Robert Epstein (via P.E.F.).

\$35 Henry Bichter, Rancho Mirage, CA.

\$10 in celebration of my daughter Cara Lee's 37th birthday, Mazal Tov! - Dada, Dada. In memory of Yitzhak Rabin - Deborah and Myron Kolko, Rochester, NY.

New Donations Progress Totals
NIS 1,377 NIS 12,703.95
\$3,388 \$9,382.69
(Other currencies converted to NIS)

WELCOME HOME FUND

NIS 100 in memory of Yitzhak Rabin - Ursula Kroener, J'm.

NIS 20 in memory of Saba Michael on his birthday - Guy, Kiryat Ono.

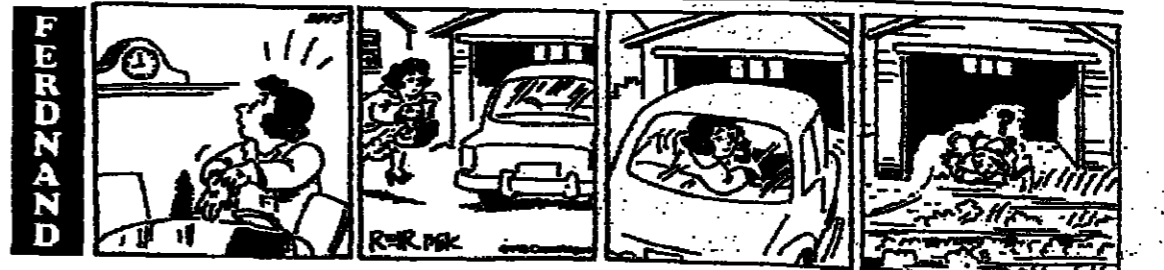
\$500 Zalman Chaim Bernstein Philanthropic Fund (via P.E.F.).

\$200 Anon., Beersheba (via P.E.F.), Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Schechter (via P.E.F.).

\$100 Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Berkowitz, Silver Spring, MD. In memory of sister Wilma Krivens Lieber - Dr. and Mrs. Harold Krivens (via P.E.F.). Sybil Marcus (via P.E.F.). The Tzitzikah box of Congregation B'nai Shalom, Buffalo Grove, IL.

\$10 in celebration of daughter Cara Lee's 37th birthday, Mazal Tov! - Dada. In memory of Yitzhak Rabin - Deborah and Myron Kolko, Rochester, NY.

New Donations Progress Totals
NIS 120 NIS 977
\$1320 \$2,650
(Other currencies converted to NIS)



03-6191668

St. Malo: The poor man's Riviera

BARRY ZWICK

Another misty day in Brittany and no way to spend my big wad of francs. All I could do was drink Campari for 20 cents a shot, bicycle through the medieval lanes of this ancient walled city, jog atop the great stone ramparts, wade into the English Channel, play low-roller games in the casino, chow down cheap crepes or quenelles, board the mini-train at the city gates or take the sea shuttle to the posh resort town of Dinard.

Then again, I could listen to the free brass band at Place Chateaubriand; walk to the Petit Be before the 17-meter tide turned it into an island; shop for UCLA Bearwear or Levis for less than they cost at home, or take the bargain bus to the abbey at Mont St-Michel, an hour's drive to the east.

I ended up doing it all. I could not waste any time. After all, my first-class hotel room was setting me back \$75 a night.

Here, in France's heart of darlings, a mainly low-budget crowd from northern France and Britain's Channel Islands shares unbelievable values on France's Emerald Coast, the Poor Man's Riviera that stretches east/west along the Channel north of Rennes.

Within the 90 blocks of cobbled alleys in the heart of the Old City lies a wonderland of chocolates, charcuteries, boulangeries and brasseries, towered over by the striking St. Vincent Cathedral. When I visited, tourists in shorts were lying on the floor of this heavy, Gothic church, staring up in awe at the majestic vaulting in the 12th-century nave.

St. Malo was not always just a cute little fishing village. For four years, beginning in 1590, it was a free and independent nation, with its own parliament. It sent ambassadors to the capitals of Europe and pirates to England. In time it became a world leader in piracy and remained so until the 19th century.

It remains a free-spirited, spunky little city. Its coat of arms proclaims, "Ni Francois, ni Breton, Malouin suis." (I am neither a Frenchman nor a Breton,

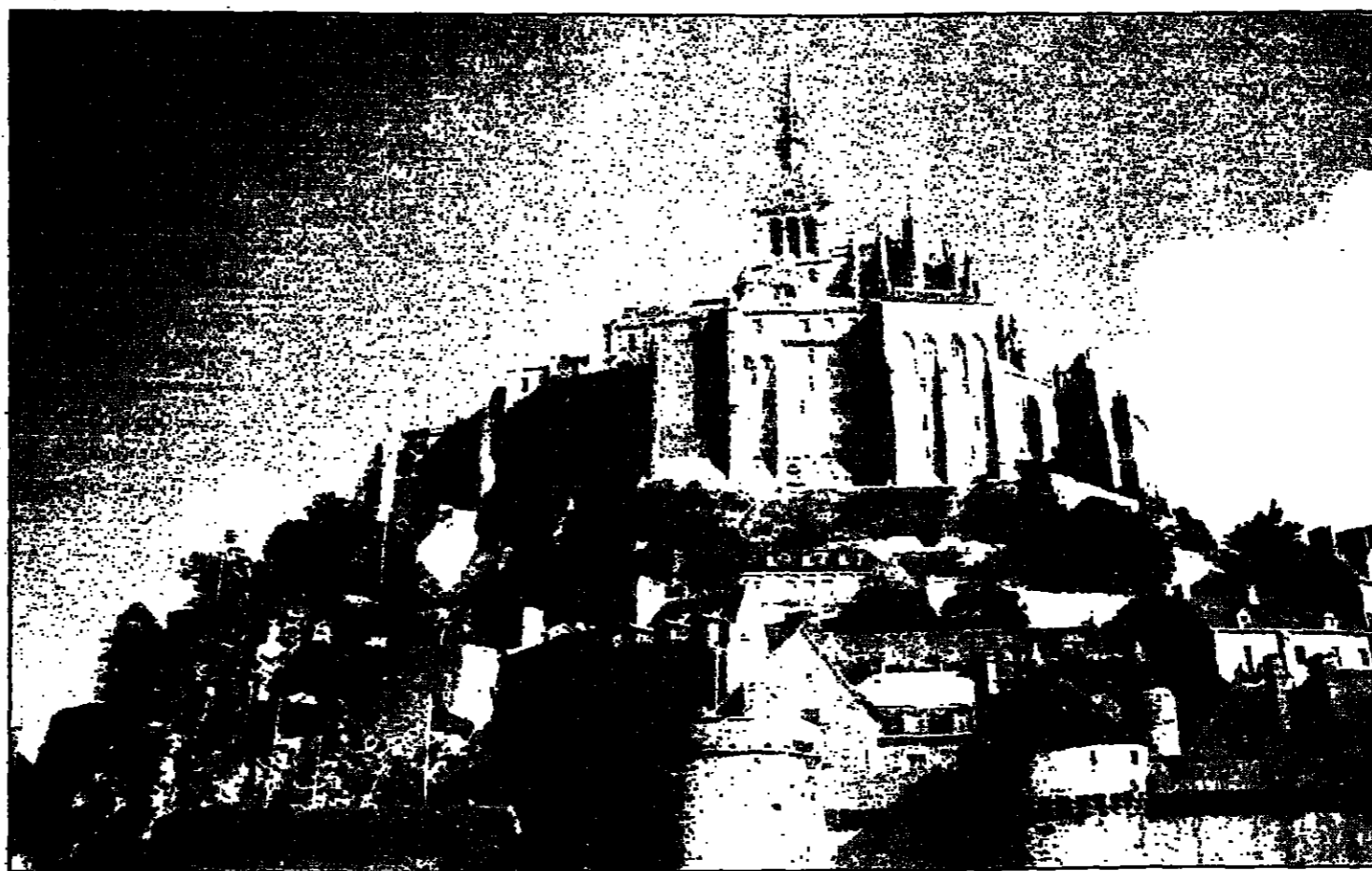
but a man of St. Malo). Every Saturday night during the summer, St. Malo sets off fireworks and puts on a lighthearted sound-and-light show in the courtyard of city hall, the former castle of Duchess Anne of Brittany (1477-1514), to commemorate the golden years of independence and the glorious centuries of piracy.

On an excursion train tour I took to orient myself with the confusing rabbit warren of twisting streets in the Old City, the driver proudly referred to St. Malo as the "corsair city." The tour, conducted in French and English, began at the gates to the city and rolled on rubber tires for half an hour past the former homes of pirates, patriots, priests and explorers. Shopkeepers and little children waved to us.

Whatever one might feel about the residents elsewhere in France, in St. Malo they are positively an asset, in fact a joy. The locals look much alike, with sharp noses and complexions so burnished to perfection that they appear to be painted on. Their courtesy and unremitting cheerfulness were, for me, wondrous to behold after four days in Paris. (My last memory of Paris was being yelled at by a jeering mob for letting the door of a coin-operated pay toilet close behind me as I left.)

After the train ride, I stepped into Le Charly's Bar on Place du Marche aux Legumes and ordered Campari. The bartender filled a five-ounce wine glass to the brim and charged me FR 5, about 90 cents at that day's rate of exchange. In Paris, I paid FR 35, more than \$6, for a single shot no bigger than a thumbnail.

As a pre-dinner drinking crowd surged into the Place Chateaubriand and then into the byways, I took refuge at the Pub L'Encrier, Bar Mexicain. There was nothing visibly Mexican about it, certainly not the men playing darts in the front, the big-screen TV blasting MTV nor the blonde, blue-eyed Frenchwoman holding court, drinking coffee and tonic and smoking a cigar. At a time when the dollar elsewhere in



Abbey-capped Mont St-Michel is just an hour's drive from St. Malo on France's Brittany Coast. (Barry Zwick/Los Angeles Times)

France wasn't going very far, a Tuborg here cost me \$2.50. It cost more than \$7 in Paris.

For dinner I chose a romantic restaurant that was frozen in ages past. At Patisan Dore, the Golden Pheasant, I ordered the kind of classical meal that hasn't been served in Paris for a generation, certainly not in such generous quantities, and certainly not for the \$18 I paid.

In the morning, the sun was shining, the air was cool and beaches were packed. Taking advantage of the low tide - at high tide there would be 13 to 17 meters of water - families hiked out to the Petit Be to tour the 17th-century Fort National, a massive fortress with a dungeon, and teenagers shrieked in the seawater pool. A few souls braved the 20-minute walk out to the Grande Be, where St. Malo

native son Francois Rene de Chateaubriand (1768-1848) is buried. Chateaubriand is best known to us as a piece of meat, but in St. Malo he is hailed as a great Romantic novelist.

Just opposite the gate to the Old City, I boarded an air-conditioned bus for a scenic 41-kilometer ride east to Mont St-Michel, one of France's most popular tourist attractions, drawing 750,000 visitors every year. Soaring up from a sandy island, surrounded by turquoise waters and perched on a 90-meter granite outcropping, the huge yet graceful abbey would be worth visiting if only for its dramatic beauty. But it's fun too.

Visitors enter through the only entrance - a single narrow gate - and trace a winding path upward through a 13th-century village and market, strolling past hawkers

of apples, cheese tarts, Calvados brandy and religious kitsch, much as pilgrims did for hundreds of years.

Mont St-Michel is hard to get to, and hotel rooms are no bargain. Most visitors take day trips from Paris, nearly five hours each way by bus. Local accommodations are cramped and priced at \$150, or more, for all but the most squalid rooms. The \$18 round-trip bus from St. Malo, one hour in each direction, is clearly the way to go.

In the afternoon, I returned to St. Malo. The sky had misted over once again, and a light drizzle was falling. The streets of the Old City were jammed, and the ramparts were buzzing, and Guernsey boys were wading in the Channel with all their clothes on.

No one fled for shelter, and few raised umbrellas. Rain is not the

enemy on the Emerald Coast.

In that spirit, I joined 50 or 60 people on the shuttle to Dinard, an hourly ferry that runs across the mouth of the Rance River to another nearby resort, a richer one with a yacht club.

Like everyone else, I stopped here for a cup of coffee, there for a Tuborg, elsewhere for a crepe filled with raspberries and whipped cream.

On the beach at Dinard, boys played volleyball in their swim trunks, and the temperature couldn't have been more than 10 degrees. We were all drenched, maybe chilly, and we didn't care.

We were vacationing on the Emerald Coast, and nothing else mattered. (Los Angeles Times)

Egypt to open four pyramids in June

Egypt will open four pyramids in June in a region long closed to the public in an attempt to attract tourists away from the overwhelmed pyramids at Giza, an antiquities official said Sunday.

Two of the ruins, including the so-called "beni pyramid," are considered some of the first attempts at pyramid building.

"These pyramids will be opened to reduce the pressure on the Giza pyramids," said Zahi Hawass, the government's director of antiquities at the Giza plateau and nearby Saqqara.

The oldest two were built by King Snofru of the Fourth Dynasty, which lasted from 2575 to 2465 BCE. Snofru was the father of King Cheops, who built the largest of the Giza pyramids.

Snofru's ruins include the "beni pyramid," whose builders began the structure at a 54-degree angle, then halfway up abruptly changed the incline to a 43-degree angle, giving it a bent look.

The other ruin is the "Red" or "Pink Pyramid," which got its name from the reddish limestone used to build it.

The two pyramids - nearly 4,600 years old - are in Dahshour, a desert area controlled by the Egyptian military until last year. The region, about 35 kilometers south of Cairo, is home to 14 of Egypt's 95 pyramids.

Another pyramid in the area will be opened, too, but of later construction. Known as the pyramid of Amenemhet III, it was built during the 12th Dynasty, which lasted from 1991 to 1783 BCE.

In nearby Abusir, home to 11 pyramids, the government will open the pyramid and funeral complex of King Sahure of the Fifth Dynasty, which lasted from 2465 to 2323 BCE. (AP)

Ticketless air travel will eliminate check-in hassles

The latest step in ticketless flying is being introduced by British Airways. Passengers will be able to make reservations, pay, check in, and board their flights using a Chipcard. The card, which serves as a credit card, ticket, and boarding pass, all in one, is to be used initially on German domestic flights and is to be issued to holders of the airline's Senator card starting March 1. It will then be issued to frequent flyers and all interested customers.

A FIVE-DAY diving course, from Sunday morning to Thursday evening, is being offered at Eilat by Arkia. The price, including flights and hotel with breakfast with four in a room is NIS 1,465. The price per person in a double room is NIS 1,788.

EL AL passengers wishing to have their suitcases enclosed in a protective plastic covering may do so, after the security check, at the early check-in facilities near the

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO
JERUSALEM
The price is NIS 10 per bag.

THE NEXT time you want to go to Dnepropetrovsk, in the Ukraine, you will be relieved to know that there is a weekly flight, operated by Kishrei Teufa. The price of a round trip ticket is \$499, but visas to the Ukraine are \$85 per person.

A CUT price of \$400 is available for round-trip flights to Kiev from Baron Tours. The company is also offering a three-night weekend in Bulgaria, including airfare and hotel with breakfast, for \$299.

AMERICAN Airlines is the latest flyer on the Internet. Their address: <http://www.amrcorp.com/aa>.

MOMBASA appears to be the latest hot destination, with direct charter flights due to begin in April. Bali Tours is offering a round-trip flight and a week in the Kenya coastal city for \$699.

A WEEK in a New York hotel and a round-trip El Al flight is being offered by Histour for \$719 until the end of February. A simi-

lar package with flights on World Airways, valid until March 15, is available for \$875.

A THREE-night weekend or midweek package in Istanbul, including airfare and hotel with breakfast, is available from Ophir Tours for \$209. The offer is valid until March 21. The company is also selling week-long packages to Madeira, including airfare and hotel with breakfast, starting at \$799, valid until March 31.

A NEW map and street atlas of Jerusalem has been published in Hebrew and English by Mapa Publications. The spiral bound atlas, printed on heavy paper, is available in two sizes, for NIS 64 and NIS 79. The map is NIS 29.

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ARTS & CRAFTS PEOPLE are invited to participate in the **ANNUAL YOM YERUSHALAYIM ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR** at the Center for Conservative Judaism on Thursday, May 16, 1996 (27 Iyar 5756). Work should have Judaic content or be on the theme of Jerusalem. Please contact Suzanne at the Center, Tel. 02-257463, 256386.

Attractions at Kibbutz Tzova amuse both parents and kids

SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

For those who want to entertain the kiddies and do a little adult exploring, Kibbutz Tzova offers both a mini-zoo and antiquities.

The kibbutz, located southwest of Jerusalem, may be reached either by leaving the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway and going through Maoz Zion or by driving through the Jerusalem suburb of Ein Kerem and following the signs for Tel Aviv.

For the zoo, follow the signs in the kibbutz to Park Hahal. The facility is far smaller than, say, the Jerusalem zoo, but the attraction here is the proximity of the animals and the opportunity to pet and hold many of them.

The zoo also has the animals from what was formerly the Judean Desert Reptile Park, located in Jerusalem's Terra Sancta building. Concerned parents will be relieved to know that this part of the zoo contains only one poisonous snake, which is virtually inaccessible.

According to Yael Kerem, director of the zoo, there are 150 species at the zoo. Some of the animals, such as the peacocks and gazelles, wander freely around the facility.

While at the zoo, you can also make arrangements to go on a wagon, pulled by a tractor, to visit nearby Ein Tzova, a spring complete with an elegantly built water tunnel. It is tempting to claim that the tunnel dates back to biblical times, but Reuven Kalifon, director of antiquities at the kibbutz, admitted that the experts say that it could be from as early as the Second Temple period to as late as the Byzantine period.

A short distance away are a series of First Temple-period tombs cut into the hillside, one of which was excavated by Kalifon. It is perhaps because of this that he is very enthusiastic about this tomb, which provides a particularly clear understanding of the bur-



Kids can get up-close to the animals at the zoo at Kibbutz Tzova, near Jerusalem.

ial customs of that time.

There is a small, square entrance, leading into a fairly roomy cave with ledges around the walls. Each ledge has one or more rounded indentations, a "pillow" for the head of the deceased, while at the center is a pit into which the bones were thrown after the body had decomposed.

Kalifon, who said that once the bones were excavated they were handed over to the Religious Affairs Ministry for reburial, noted that most of the skulls found were those of children. This, he said, reflected the fact that until a century or two ago most children died at a young age,

leaving relatively few adults to reach maturity.

Above the tombs is a large level stone area with the remains of at least one wine press. It was this area which Edward Robinson, the famed 19th-century American explorer and archeologist, had mistakenly identified as the place where Saul was anointed.

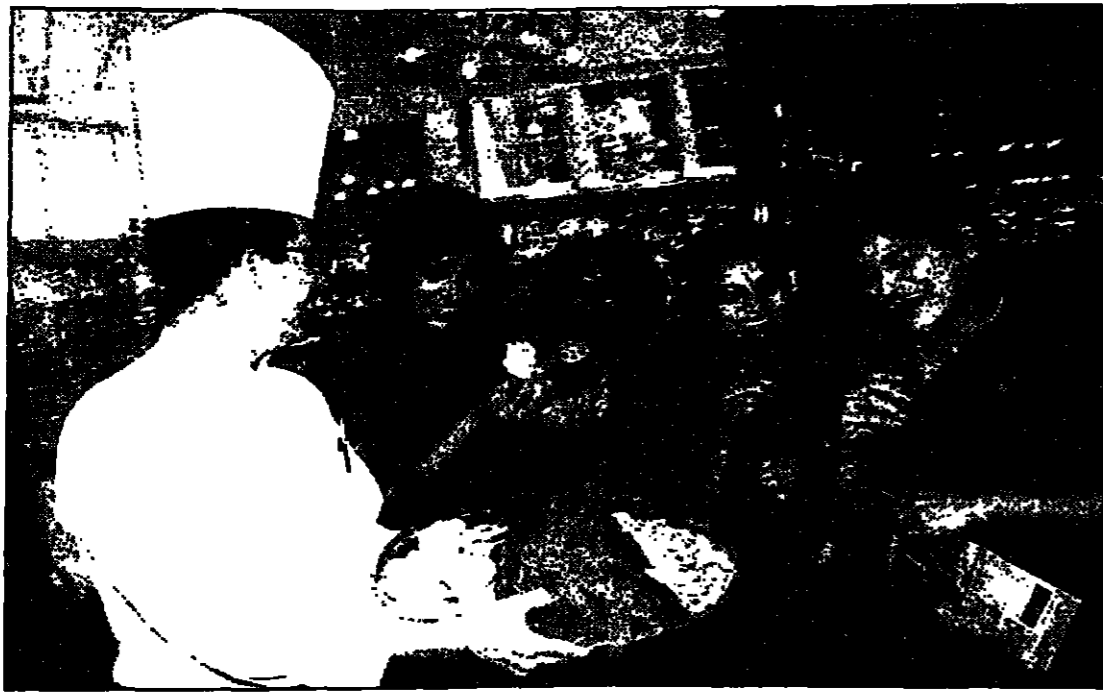
The zoo is open daily, including Shabbat, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Friday it is open until 3 p.m. Admission for individuals is NIS 10 on weekdays, NIS 12 on weekends. A guided tour of the antiquities, including the wagon ride, is NIS 10 per person. For information call (02) 347952.

YOU DEMAND, WE COMPLY
EILAT AND THE NEGEV
Sold out in October, we're organizing another popular tour to the south. So get in now, for a really great time at a bargain price. Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post Travel Club's stimulating and informative English speaking off-the-beaten-track 4 day tour of the Negev and Eilat. We'll pick you up in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, and on the way south visit the Air Force Museum at Hatzertim, and Machtesh Ramon (the Ramon Crater). We'll tour the Shoret Canyon, cruise the coral reefs in a glass-bottomed boat, and view Aqaba and Taba, take a jeep tour, yes, a jeep tour of Mt. Yo'ash, Ein Netafim, Nahal Shlomo, Nahal Yehoshafat and Nahal Rehav'am. There'll be two evening lectures and a night tour of Eilat. We'll be staying at the delightful PARADISE HOTELS in Eilat and our tour guide will be David Solomon.
The Dates: Mon., February 26- Thur., February 29 4 days, 3 nights.
The Price: NIS 1045, per person in a double room, half board, air conditioned bus from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, escorts and guides, entrance to all sites, lectures, jeep tour, etc.
Shorashim: POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074. Tel. 02-666231 9:30 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. (ask for Romit or Tami)

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Members of an Air India flight crew enjoy the fruits of Tu Bishvat at the Tel Aviv Hilton.

Talking heads come to grips

TO ENSURE that he remains at the top of the TV talk-show ratings, Dan Shilon, after his memorable one-on-one interviews with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Likud leader Binjamin Netanyahu, has lined up a weekly political confrontation between opposing forces in the race to the Knesset. First up will be Tourism Minister Uzi Baran and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert who is running on the Likud ticket. In the weeks ahead, Shilon has scheduled Haim Ramon and Benny Begin, Ehud Barak and Dan Meridor, and Yossi Beilin and Moshe Katsav. To give added spice to the program public survey queen Dr. Mina Teamah will on each occasion conduct a real-time poll amongst 1,000 viewers to determine which of the two candidates has made a stronger impression.

SOMEONE WHO definitely won't be appearing on the show will be Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tzur, who is not participating in the primaries. Tzur has set his sights on the chairmanship of Agrexco's board of directors where he can be a bigger fish in a smaller sea.

THE ESTEEM with which former head of the General Security Services Karmi Gillon is still held in government circles is evidenced by one of several job offers to come his way. Gillon is a leading candidate for the position of Israel's ambassador to Tokyo. If he does take up the post, he will be one of several ex-GSS and ex-Mossad senior staffers serving in the diplomatic corps.

"YOU'VE GOT to be seen enjoying the product," said Australian ambassador Peter Rogers, as he sipped yet another glass at an Australian wine tasting at Avi Ben's wine store in Jerusalem. Rogers, who is something of a wine buff, attributed the idea for the social get-together to Uri Dromi, director of the Government Press Office. Aware that Australian wines had a good reputation world wide, Dromi had suggested a promotional event at the GPO's neighboring liquor store. Most of the Israelis attending limited themselves to tasting, but the Australians present indulged in serious drinking, gravitating effortlessly between the reds and the whites. Among them were Rose Batagol, currently visiting relatives here; honorary consul for Papua New Guinea Daniel Lew and his wife Sonia, who this month will open a llama farm at their home in Ramat Razei; banker John Ponger and television star George Negus who was passing through on his way home from Kuwait and Jordan.

CABINET MINISTERS should not

GRAPEVINE GREER FAY CASHMAN

be looking forward to swapping their present vehicles for a new American model. At a luncheon which he hosted this week for his Swedish counterpart Lena Hjelm Wallen, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak pledged: "We promise to keep driving Volvos as long as we can."

FEW PEOPLE are happy when their cars are pilfered, but Japanese car manufacturers must have exercised supreme control to suppress smiles of satisfaction at the popularity of their products in this part of the world. After Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal announced the number and makes of stolen cars, reading out the breakdown on Israel Radio, pre-dawn anchorman Yigal Raviv noted that Subaru, with 9,300 vehicles stolen, was by far the most favored target. He then went on to list the other cars stolen and finished off "including my Honda."

NUMEROUS FOREIGN flight crews stay at the Tel Aviv Hilton, and now there's one more. The Air India crew, coming in on their inaugural flight to Israel, made the Hilton their base. "What's for dinner in Israel?" asked senior flight attendant Khorsheed Godla as she led her stewardesses, clad in colorful saris, through the hotel lobby. The fare presented to them by Chef Eran Harel was far from the usual. It just happened to be Tu Bishvat, and the platters were piled high with dried fruits and nuts.

TWO HUNDRED masks, which over a year ago were painted by celebrities as a fund-raising effort for Akim, are still making news. Ilan Hager's studio, which designed a catalog of the masks, came in for a special citation in the recent Golden Cut contest held by the Association of Graphic Designers. Included in the catalog are photographs of the masks painted by Yitzhak and Leah Rabin. The originals fetched \$30,000 at a public auction, and were purchased by an Akim supporter from Argentina.

IT'S BEEN said before, and it has proved to be correct. People tend to respond much more to the negative than to the positive. Thus when a technological glitch last week cut this column in its prime, leaving Kobi Leket, director general of the World Zionist Organization's Information Department dangling like a participant, there was a flurry of phone calls to find out what the item was actually about. The feedback was a balm to the ego, even though the story itself had already lost its excitement.

But for those who still want to know, Leket, who chaired the sixth International Conference of the Jewish Media, celebrated his birthday on the opening night of the conference in the presence of over 150 participants, WZO colleagues, several diplomats, Knesset members and would-be Knesset members. But Leket's more memorable birthday celebration was this week in Amman, where he and a delegation of 60 Jewish journalists were received at the royal palace by King Hussein.

Leket, who was the first WZO representative to officially meet the ruler of the Hashemite Kingdom, presented him with a gift of silver Doves of Peace created by Jerusalem artist Sam Philippe. At the rate that he's collecting doves of peace, the king will soon be able to start his own flock. An aside to the story is that there was some kind of mix-up between the palace and the WZO. When the king was initially ready to greet them, Leket and his delegation were in Petra and unsuitably attired for the occasion. Another arrangement was made, and something else went amiss. Finally, a late-afternoon time was scheduled, and again it was a case of the best-laid plans... so the buses just circled around until they received word to return to the palace. At the time they were at Mount Nevo from where Moses looked out over the Promised Land.

ONE OF the last wannabes to sign up on the Likud list is Yael Amishav, whose husband David Medved gave her the choice of a new car or seed money for her election campaign. She chose the latter.

PEOPLE ON the hustings know that in order to grab the attention of the audience one should always start with a good story. Which probably explains why master storyteller Yossi Alfi is busier than usual. With elections drawing ever closer, Alfi's stable of politicians who want to learn how to captivate the public is growing.

COMMENTING on the Likud/Isomet marriage destined for divorce, entertainer Danny Sanderson said: "Bibi and Rafel. It sounds like a steakhouse for soldiers."

ONE OF the things which prepared him for ecumenical work, recounted Rabbi David Rosen, the Anti-Defamation League's Director of Interfaith Relations, was his work as a marriage counselor in a community congregation. He finds that attachments to Jerusalem by members of the three great faiths are not that far removed from those of marriage partners to their homes and joint possessions.

Garinim-spitting champ wins in seedy contest

The making of a cultural hero

RACHEL NEIMAN

GARINIM or roasted sunflower seeds, that traditional Israeli snack, are now also trivia for the ages. Remember this date: February 5, 1996. That's when the first garinim-cracking champion of Israel - and the world - was named.

A lackadaisical crowd at Ramat Gan's Ayalon Mall gathered around the stage, where the contestants leaned uncomfortably against bright yellow railings. They would probably have been more comfortable sitting on them.

The mall and cosponsor Pitzuhel Yerushalayim posted the prize of a NIS 1,000 gift certificate, good at all Ayalon Mall stores. Furthermore, the event was to be monitored "by a representative of the Guinness Book of World Records." What better way to spend the end of Tu Bishvat? Plenty of people were waiting for the action to begin at 6:30, mostly mothers and babies; fortunately, few of them carried cellular phones.

After the requisite 15-minute delay, the competition opened. Brother emcee Nati and Doron Ravitz failed the *tumler* test: they couldn't get Israelis - for whom hand-clapping is a Pavlovian response to music - to put their hands together in time to the mood music: a recent remake of "Living Next Door to Alice."

The crowd was supposed to cheer 17 men and three women competing in groups of five. On stage were five settings, each set with two bowls: one empty and one filled with a pre-measured amount of roasted sunflower seeds. The Ravitzes read out the rules: crack as many as possible within five minutes, at the end of which each contestant's area would be examined. No shells or seeds could be left on the table or the floor. Messy eating would automatically disqualify the contestant.

This seemed unnatural and unfair to some. They were also not too happy with the starting position of keeping their hands under the table. Contestants pretended not to hear that rule, but lawyer Yitzhak Kiras - representing the local representatives of the Guinness Book of World Records - was insistent. Doron Ravitz reread the rules in the obligatory American, Arabic and Gruzian accents, and it was time to begin.

Interestingly, most contestants were professional people who made their livings from day jobs, cracking garinim in their spare time. Avi, from Bat Yam, was a marketing manager who had read about the competition. Didi, a clothes manufacturer from Tel Aviv heard about it on the radio, marketing man Yehuda read about it in the paper.

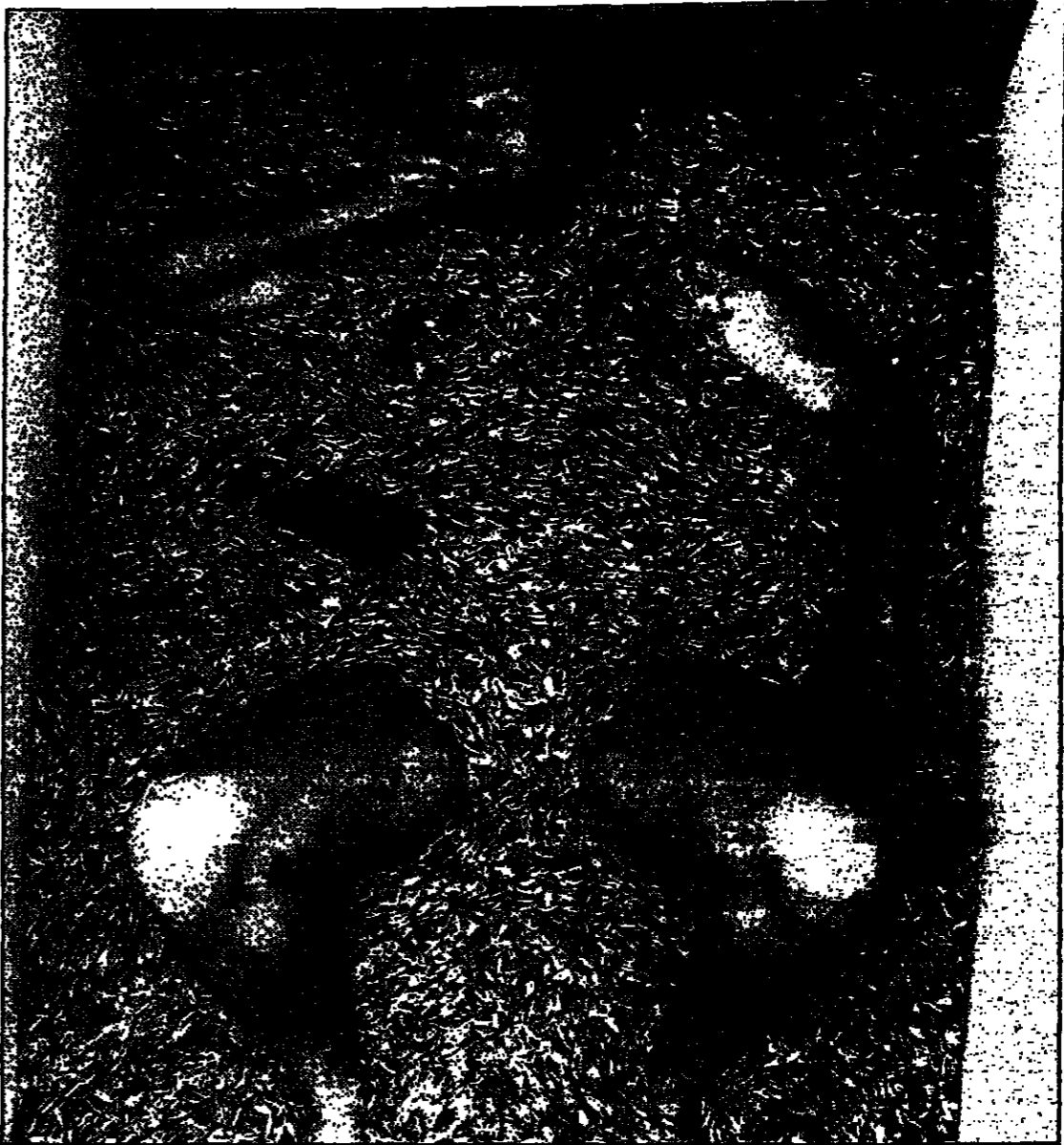
The last contestant in the first group would only identify himself by the initials G.A. and said what he did was enjoy life. The Ravitz brothers immediately dubbed him "G.A. from the GSS."

"And now, ladies and gentlemen! Only in Israel! Only in Ramat Gan! This night will be recorded in history! The garinim competition is ready to begin!"

"One, two, three... go!" There is nothing that brings out an Israeli's ugly character more than having someone before him who is totally engrossed in doing something. It doesn't matter what the activity is, as long as it's an opportunity to hurl comments and try to break the other's concentration.

With the garinim competition's start what you had was the Ravitz boys, suddenly not the center of attention and still unable to get people to clap their hands. They then did what came naturally: bug the contestants. "Wake up, wake up, wake up!" Nati shouted.

"The Jordanian, Lebanese and Syrian TV stations are all here," Doron shouted. "All eyes of the Middle East are on you." Jewish



Breakfast of champions: As this promo photo shows, you can chew 'em, spit 'em or bathe in 'em.

guilt was rife. "Riki, you have to finish them this week!" Nati admonished, rapping his forefinger on the table.

"If you don't crack them any faster, we won't give you any water!" Doron said. This gave Nati an idea. "Ooh, are they going to be thirsty," he said loudly. "All that salt. Are they ever going to be thirsty!"

A photographer leapt up and took a flash photo of a hapless Yehuda, then moved onto G.A., who was doing the four-way spit. Didi seemed to have perfected the active two-hand pass.

"At the end of the first round, the judges pounced on the bowls, weighing empty shells and uncracked seeds separately in order to determine exactly how much each contestant had consumed. After a few moments it was announced: despite having been temporarily blinded, Yehuda had slowly and steadily managed to crunch his way through 18 grams.

The second group was more eclectic: Yuval from Pardes Hanna was a musician. Iris of Bat Yam, a secretary, heard about the competition through a friend, Uzi of Ramat Gan worked at the mall. Soldier Avshalom of Holon said he had been practicing eating garinim for two years, and Motti - who said he was from Tel Aviv but then corrected himself saying he was visiting from abroad where he owned a clothes shop - declared with typical yored bravado he would definitely win.

They too learned that 15 minutes of fame comes together with 15 minutes of abuse at the hands of the media: the IDF radio correspondent stuck her mike in poor Uzi's face in order to record the sound of wet, soggy cracking and chewing. Nati spewed bile over the working man, threatening unemployment, being fired or stripped of rank.

Avshalom demonstrated the cupping technique, holding unopened seeds close to the mouth in his left hand, while transporting and cracking with the right. But it was self-proclaimed visitor Motti who won the round with 11 grams.

On to the third round: Shai, a cook from Kiryat Ono; Limor who didn't do anything from Givatayim, moon-faced Ovadia from Ramat Gan; kibbutznik Avi from Nahshonim. And then there was Meir from Ra'anana, a gaunt fellow with burning eyes who looked like he couldn't consume anything wider than one sunflower seed at a time.

One, two, three... go! Limor leaned into her plate and cracked her seeds one-handed, while Nati

promised Shai's wife she'd take home a winner. But it was not to be. Plodding Ovadia grazed his way through 20 grams.

It was men only in the fourth: Yehuda of Ramat Gan, Jerusalemite Doron, Avner the ad man from Hadera, and Moshe of Scitex. Then there was Rami of Netanya, who tried being modest but was quickly goaded by the Ravitzes into declaring to the others, "You can all go home. You're wasting your time."

By now, the audience had become like family. Nati brought a little girl onstage so she could gigglingly demonstrate "how people eat garinim in my house." He massaged the contestants' shoulders and when interfering with them got to be too dangerous, chided the audience for having insufficient spirit. The only joy in having Rami win the round was the knowledge that, at 14 grams, he was up against very stiff competition. All hoped he would climb high so as to fall from a greater height.

The final round showed a quartet of techniques - Ovadia with the

lunge and pass, Yehuda's nervous clip and chip, southpaw Motti doing the opposite of everyone else and hoarding shells chipmunk-style in his cheeks. Rami (a messy eater) used the cupping method but so badly that throughout the 10 minutes he was constantly threatened with disqualification by a dissatisfied Kira.

Although Motti was the crowd favorite, he came in third with 33 grams. Ovadia was second with 45 grams. Yehuda Nagri was named sunflower-seed-cracking champion of the world with a whopping 51 grams.

As for Nagri's place in history, the contest promoters exaggerated a *lee-tle* bit about the Guinness thing. There is no sunflower-seed category, although a precedent has been set with a melon-seed spitting world record in the US. If it's accepted as a category, Nagri's name might appear, but only in the Hebrew language-version of Guinness.

If not, it is our collective responsibility to remember Yehuda Nagri's achievement for the sake of our unofficial national pastime.

THE ISRAEL - CANADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

The annual event of the Chamber will take place on Thursday, February 15, 1996, at 5:00 p.m. at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel

Subject: "Doing Business with Canada in an Era of Free Trade between the Two Countries"

Guest speaker: Avraham (Beiga) Shohat, Minister of Finance

Participants: Aviram Sivan, Chairman of the Board of Bank Hapoalim, President of the Manufacturers Association of Israel; Dan Fropper, President of Claridge Israel Inc.; Jonathan Kolber, President of CellCom Israel; Ya'akov Pezy, CEO of International Technologies; Yossi Yardi.

A festive reception in honor of David Berger, H.E. the Ambassador of Canada will follow the event.

For reservations, Tel. 03-6202544, Fax. 03-6202515.

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The LIBI Fund and Friends of LIBI will be holding an auction on Independence Day

of Israeli art, together with items of historic, Zionist and sentimental value, related to the history of the State of Israel.

The auction will take place on Independence Day, April 24, 1996 (5 Iyar, 5756) at the Tiroche Gallery and will be broadcast live on the television shopping channel.

Anyone interested in donating items for auctioning should contact:

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1996

17

Welcome Citibank

ON THE AGENDA

AMOTZ ASA-EL

FROM its onset, the dream of Jewish statehood had a love-hate relationship with the banking profession.

Having failed to achieve that, the dreamer whose bearded image would eventually adorn hyper-inflationary shekel bills...

For example, a few months after Herzl's death, when the Zionist movement was in dire need of even petty cash...

And so, left to its own financial devices, the Yishuv had to make do with the Jewish Agency's APC and the Histadrut's Hapoalim (est. 1921).

Moreover, the two weren't banks in the orthodox sense of the term - namely organizations aimed exclusively at absorbing and leading money for the sake of making money.

Ultimately, because of its confinement to a minuscule market and due to its distance from the world's financial hubs...

ings each in its own tongue: Hapoalim in Yiddish, Leumi in German, and Discount in Ladino.

The situation was further exacerbated after the launch of the Arab Boycott. Now, an already deformed banking sector - suffering from cumbersome political influence, a lack of powerful competitors and obstructed geographical horizons - was doomed to stew in its own juice for half a century.

In all likelihood, Israel's economic history would have been different had the banking sector been exposed to real international competition during all these lost decades.

Obviously, Hapoalim's and Leumi's dominance of this economy's non-financial activity - unparalleled anywhere throughout the free world - would not have evolved in the first place.

Ironically, the scandal surrounding allegations that the big banks inflated multi-million-shekel debts owed to them by kibbutzim erupted on the very week when a major foreign bank - Citibank - set up shop in Tel Aviv.

World banking leaders are by no means immune to misguided policies. Citicorp - the humongous banking empire of which Citibank is a centerpiece - lost some \$4 billion in the late 1980s in bad loans to Latin American governments.

Initially, Citibank will concentrate on corporate finance. One can only hope that ultimately it - and its competitors - will also be allowed to engage here in retail banking.

Ultimately, because of its confinement to a minuscule market and due to its distance from the world's financial hubs, Yishuv banking became parochial, intimate, and familial, so much so that even after it was joined (in 1935) by Bank Discount of the Greek-Jewish Recanati family...

Tzur, UKM at odds over Procaccia Report

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

"AGRICULTURE Minister Ya'acov Tzur has taken an irresponsible and disloyal stand with regards to the Kibbutz debt affair, and is now working against the United Kibbutz Movement's official stand."

Tzur is UKM's most senior incumbent politician. Ben-Moshe was reacting to Tzur's demands that an inquiry be set up into the banks alleged overcharging of kibbutzim for loans...

Earlier this week, a preliminary report prepared by Prof. Uriel Procaccia alleged that the commercial banks miscalculated charges to kibbutzim over many years.

Tzur strongly criticized UKM's objections to the inquiry, emphasizing that it does not make sense that cabinet ministers understand the implications of the Procaccia report, while the UKM prefers to ignore it.

"It is not only a financial problem, involving the size of the debt and the interest rate charged. There is also a big difference if the government pays for the banks' mistakes or the failures of the kibbutzim," said Tzur...

In reaction, Ben-Moshe said an overall inquiry "violates the kibbutz debt arrangement, in which [Tzur] was involved, and endangers its implementation."



published at the end of the month. Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi, which rejected the findings of the report, said it was commissioned by an interested party.

This body [the Kibbutz Headquarters], which operates according to private economic interests, is trying to tempt the kibbutzim to abandon their commitments," said Bank Hapoalim.

Gov't electricity bill slammed for timing, content

EVELYN GORDON

THE government's electricity bill was attacked from all sides yesterday, as the joint Knesset Finance-Economics Committee began its deliberations on the bill.

The bill, which opens up the electricity market to a maximum of 10% private production for the next 10 years, was criticized for both its content and its timing - it was presented to the Knesset only a month before the Israel Electric Corp.'s franchise expires on March 5.

Dr. Yossi Vardi, who headed a public commission on how to reform the electricity sector, and private energy consultant Dr. Ilan Maoz both said the 10-year "transition period" is too long, since during this time the IEC will have a monopoly on transport and distribution...

chasing from other producers, who will be able to sell only to the IEC rather than directly to clients. Both men praised the IEC's technical excellence, but said prices should be lower - something true competition would encourage, but the current bill will not.

Vardi also strenuously denied that the bill bore any relation to his committee's recommendations, although the explanatory notes to the bill say it is based on these recommendations.

In contrast, the MKs primarily attacked the bill's timing. Given that the IEC's franchise has lasted 70 years, it was completely improper for the government to have given the Knesset only a month to consider the bill...

choices: working day and night, extending the IEC's franchise for another few months, or simply discussing the bill without worrying about the impending end of the franchise. However, he said, it is too important a bill for the committee to rubber stamp, since electricity is something that affects every person and business in the country.

He asked Energy Minister Gonen Seggev to report to the committee on what exactly the legal situation would be if the bill is not finished by March 5, so that it can decide how to handle the problem.

Dan Tichon (Likud) favored extending the franchise for a few months so the bill could be discussed at leisure after the primaries. Otherwise, he said, the heavy pressure from the IEC union to pass the bill is likely to inject too much politics into what should be a serious, issue-oriented discussion.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

The Economic Forum will hold a conference entitled "Jerusalem: A Center for Tourism in the Era of Peace" on March 3 at the Jerusalem International Convention Center.

Alcatel Telspace, a division of the French multinational Alcatel, has selected Foxcom, Inc.'s Sat-Light RF fiberoptic links for their earth station gateways supporting mobile satellite communications.

German seasonally adjusted unemployment surged by 59,000 to a new record of 3.851 million, the sixth increase in a row, the Federal Labor Office said yesterday.

The unemployment rate, based on unadjusted figures, rose to 10.8 percent from 9.9% in December. The unadjusted figure also rose to an all-time high in the Federal Republic's history of 4.159 million, a rise of 368,000 from December.

The seasonally adjusted rise, which was in line with economists' expectations, was made up of 17,000 rise in west Germany to 2.677 million and a 42,000 leap in the east to 1.174 million.

Nestle believed to have bought 9% of Osem

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

FOREIGN investors have purchased 9 percent of Osem Industries shares over the last two weeks, following yesterday's sale of 3% of the company to an anonymous investor for NIS 47m.

Analysts speculate that the purchases were made by the Swiss Nestle company which has now turned into a major shareholder in Osem as a result of the purchase. The shares were reportedly sold off market, by Israel Discount Bank's provident funds.

Over the last two weeks Discount Bank's provident funds have reportedly sold 6% of Osem's shares to foreign investors, in two separate transactions. The first transaction involved the sale of 4.9% of

Osem's stock while the second sale of 0.8%.

Analysts said it is not clear if the shares were purchased by the same investor each time but if they were, the transaction must be reported by next week. Under securities law, the investor is obliged to report the purchase of more than 5% of any stock to the stock exchange.

Nestle options to purchase about 10% of Osem's shares is due to expire in June 1996. Analysts forecast Nestle will try to continue to increase its share in the local food giant possibly through the purchase of shares from one of the company's controlling shareholders, which include the Claridge group and the Proper family.

Tempo to split into beer, soft drinks companies

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TEMPO Beer Industries plans to split its beer and soft drinks lines into two separate companies in the framework of negotiations between the Bornstein family, the company's major shareholder, and an unspecified foreign company, Tempo announced to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday.

Industry insiders believe the foreign company is Dutch brewer Heineken.

Tempo said it is in preliminary negotiations and has yet to reach an agreement on the transaction conditions. Following the announcement, Tempo's shares jumped 5 percent on the TASE.

The plan to divide the company has not yet been discussed with the company's control committee and board of directors and still remains subject to a number of approvals which have not been received, the company said.

The company refused to provide additional information.

Tempo board chairman Jacques Beer and managing director Dan Bibro, who are overseas, could not be reached for comment.

Industry sources forecast Heineken may be aiming to buy up to 10% of either the newly independent soft drink or beer companies. Tempo recently completed a deal with Heineken beer which enables the company to start brewing Amstel beer in Israel in May.

Tempo has manufacturing plants in Holon, Netanya and Yeroham. The Holon plant manufactures soft drinks, the Netanya plant produces brewery and soft drinks, and the Yeroham plant makes plastic bottles.

The company's beer products include Maccabee, Goldstar, Amstel, Heineken, Mahstar and Nesher, while its soft drinks consist of a wide range of juice flavored soft drinks, sugar sweetened carbonated drinks and diet drinks. In addition, Tempo manufactures and distributes Pepsi Cola products.

Tempo completed the first three quarters of the year with a net profit of NIS 11.8 million compared with a net profit of NIS 10.88m. in the corresponding period last year.

MONEY MAGAZINE ON WEDNESDAY - MONEY DAY IN THE JERUSALEM POST STEF WERTHEIMER A profile of Israel's most successful industrialist. DON'T MISS IT!

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Real Estate & Investments in Israel 1996 Just before Passach, The Jerusalem Post will publish special supplements, devoted to real estate and investments in Israel. The supplements will be published in the International Editions of March 4, 11 and 18 and in the daily paper on April 5. For more information and to advertise in these supplements, please contact: Udi Bash 03-6390333 Fax: 03-6390277

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS Table with columns for Currency deposit rates (3, 6, 12 months), Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates, and CHEQUES AND TRANSFERS. Includes exchange rates for US dollar, German mark, Pound sterling, etc.

Key Representative Rates
Change
US dollar ...NIS 3.1300 +0.13%

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS
Last Change
Dow Jones Industrial Average 2915.47 +14.92

New York market indexes
Last Change
DJI Industrials 2915.47 +14.92

NYSE stocks
Unchanged Advance Decline
Shares 797 1317 97

Other stock market indexes
Last Change
NYSE 100 2915.47 +14.92

Israeli stocks in NY
Last Change
NYSE AMEX 39.5 -0.37%

INFLATION MARKETS
Dollar crossrates (US)
Last Change
Franc 1.3375 +0.0008

LIBOR RATES
Last Change
3 months 5.0113 0

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

US commodities
Last Change
Cocoa (May) (COC) 1272 +5

Spot market futures (US)
Last Change
Gold spot 409.25 +0.1

New York metal futures
Last Change
Gold (Apr) 409.25 +0.1

London commodities
Last Change
Gold AM 409.25 +0.1

US commodities
Last Change
Cocoa (May) (COC) 1272 +5

Spot market futures (US)
Last Change
Gold spot 409.25 +0.1

New York metal futures
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Gold (Apr) 409.25 +0.1

London commodities
Last Change
Gold AM 409.25 +0.1

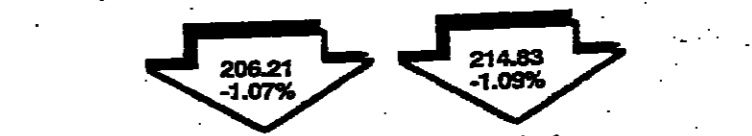
BUSINESS & FINANCE

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Two-sided trading
AFTERNOON
MORNING
Name Price Change Volume Price Change % Volume

TASE falls amid fears of rising inflation

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



Two-Sided index Maof index

THE Tel Aviv Stock Market finished the week lower, amid concern about increased inflation estimates for January and the question of early elections.

Yesterday's most active stock was Bank Hapoalim, down 3 percent on NIS 7.6 million of shares traded.

Investors are concerned that Hapoalim might have to sell its stake in Koor Industries before control of the bank is turned over to private investors.

The Two-Sided Index closed down 1.07 at 206.21. That's 2.6% lower for the week. The Maof Index finished at 214.83, down 1.09%, 2.7% down on the week.

Nearly eight issues fell for every five that rose. A total of NIS 90.3m. worth of shares traded, 1% above the average daily trading rate this month of NIS 89.4m., and off 14% against January's NIS 105m. average.

"The general economic atmosphere is not so good these days," said Eli Nahum, head of trading at Zannex Securities.

The government posted a NIS 1.5 billion budget gap for January, and "investors don't like the year starting out with such a big deficit, especially in an election year," Nahum said.

"Some of them might be a little too afraid that the government will be a little too easy with its expenditures."

There's also "forecasts and fears" about the consumer price index due next week. "Most analysts until recently picked (the index) under 1%.

Now suddenly there are rumors - I'm not saying that they are right - that some are picking 1.3%. That's uncomfortable for players in the market."

"And you just have to add the weakness of the dollar, and interest rates up 0.3 percentage points. One doesn't have to be an economist to understand this combination" could hurt stocks, he said.

(Bloomberg)

Dow hits 5,500 11th record for '96

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks broke out of a dull morning session to push to new highs for the fourth day running yesterday as investors fearing an economic downturn stepped up their purchases of recession-resistant issues.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 47 points at the close, breaching 5,500 for the first time.

The blue-chip index spent most of the day at slightly depressed levels but shot higher in the final hour on the strength of computerized buy programs. At one point the Dow was up more than 50 points, prompting the New York Stock Exchange to initiate trading restrictions.

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investors had a slim 6-5 lead on decisions on the New York Stock Exchange. Volume was moderately heavy at around 400 million shares, slightly above Wednesday's pace.

Broad market indexes also moved to record highs, but their gains were less aggressive than the Dow's.

Consumer stocks, which generally perform better during an economic contraction, were higher. The Dow industrials were led higher by consumer stocks Eastman Kodak, Coca-Cola and Procter and Gamble.

Pharmaceutical stocks, another recession stalwart, gained as well, with Dow component Merck moving higher.

"The whole world is looking for a sluggish economy this year," said Alfred Goldman, vice president at A.G. Edwards and Sons Inc. in St. Louis. "Money is going into defensive growth stocks."

Blue-chip issues outperformed the broader market. Advancing

London closes 17 points down

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON - UK shares ended weaker for the third time in four sessions as more UK institutional investors joined a growing bandwagon of short-term FTSE pessimists.

"This market is looking tired," one senior trader said. "It is hard to find anyone who isn't convinced the FTSE is going to fall. The only question now seems to be how much." The FTSE 100 index closed 17.7 points lower at 3,708.4.

PARIS - French shares finished in sharp decline as a 15 basis point cut in the intervention rate by the Bank of France triggered heavy profit-taking. The CAC-40 index closed down 27.13 points or 1.37 percent at 1,956.16.

ZURICH - Swiss shares closed lower on moderate turnover as weak Swiss bond futures weighed on the market. Dealers said trade was quiet in blue chips while some second-tier shares saw active business. The broad SPI index closed 10.51 points lower at 2,214.65.

TOKYO - Tokyo's Nikkei stock average closed above 21,000 for the first time in 19 months yesterday after foreign investors bought high-technology shares, and a

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Members of an Air India flight crew enjoy the fruits of Tu Bishvat at the Tel Aviv Hilton.

Talking heads come to grips

TO ENSURE that he remains at the top of the TV talk-show ratings, Dan Shilon, after his memorable one-on-one interviews with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, has lined up a weekly political confrontation between opposing forces in the race to the Knesset. First up will be Tourism Minister Uzi Baram and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert who is running on the Likud ticket. In the weeks ahead, Shilon has scheduled Haim Ramon and Benny Begin, Ehud Barak and Dan Meridor, and Yossi Beilin and Moshe Katzav. To give added spice to the program public survey queen Dr. Miriam Tzoref will on each occasion conduct a real-time poll amongst 1,000 viewers to determine which of the two candidates has made a stronger impression.

SOMEONE WHO definitely won't be appearing on the show will be Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tzur, who is not participating in the primaries. Tzur has set his sights on the chairmanship of Agrexco's board of directors where he can be a bigger fish in a smaller sea.

THE ESTEEM with which former head of the General Security Services Karmi Gillon is still held in government circles is evidenced by one of several job offers to come his way. Gillon is a leading candidate for the position of Israel's ambassador to Tokyo. If he does take up the post, he will be one of several ex-GSS and ex-Mossad senior staffers serving in the diplomatic corps.

"YOU'VE GOT to be seen enjoying the product," said Australian ambassador Peter Rogers, as he sipped yet another glass at an Australian wine tasting at Avi Ben's wine store in Jerusalem. Rogers, who is something of a wine buff, attributed the idea for the social get-together to Uri Dromi, director of the Government Press Office. Aware that Australian wines had a good reputation world wide, Dromi had suggested a promotional event at the GPO's neighboring liquor store. Most of the Israelis attending limited themselves to tasting, but the Australians present indulged in serious drinking, gravitating effortlessly between the reds and the whites. Among them were Rose Batagol, currently visiting relatives here; honorary consul for Papua New Guinea Daniel Lew and his wife Sonia, who this month will open a llama farm at their home in Ramat Razeil; banker John Ponger and television star George Negus who was passing through on his way home from Kuwait and Jordan.

CABINET MINISTERS should not

GRAPEVINE GREER FAY CASHMAN

be looking forward to swapping their present vehicles for a new American model. At a luncheon which he hosted this week for his Swedish counterpart Lena Hjelm Wallen, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak pledged: "We promise to keep driving Volvos as long as we can."

FEW PEOPLE are happy when their cars are pilfered, but Japanese car manufacturers must have exercised supreme control to suppress smiles of satisfaction at the popularity of their products in this part of the world, after Internal Security Minister Moshe Shalom announced the number and makes of stolen cars. Reading out the breakdown on Israel Radio, pre-dawn anchorman Yigal Ravid noted that Subaru, with 9,300 vehicles stolen, was by far the most favored target. He then went on to list the other cars stolen and finished off "including my Honda."

NUMEROUS FOREIGN flight crews stay at the Tel Aviv Hilton, and now there's one more. The Air India crew, coming in on their inaugural flight to Israel, made the Hilton their base. "What's for dinner in Israel?" asked senior flight attendant Khorshed Gotha as she led her stewardesses, clad in colorful saris, through the lobby hotel. The fare presented to them by Chef Krav Harel was far from the usual. It just happened to be Tu Bishvat, and the platters were piled high with dried fruits and nuts.

TWO HUNDRED masks, which over a year ago were painted by celebrities as a fund-raising effort for Akim, are still making news. Ilan Hageri's studio, which designed a catalog of the masks, came in for a special citation in the recent Golden Cut contest held by the Association of Graphic Designers. Included in the catalog are photographs of the masks painted by Yitzhak and Leah Rabin. The originals fetched \$30,000 at a public auction, and were purchased by an Akim supporter from Argentina.

IT'S BEEN said before, and it has proved to be correct. People tend to respond much more to the negative than to the positive. Thus when a technological glitch last week cut this column in its prime, leaving Kobi Leket, director general of the World Zionist Organization's Information Department dangling like a parachute, there was a flurry of phone calls to find out what the item was actually about. The feedback was a balm to the ego, even though the story itself had already lost its excitement.

But for those who still want to know, Leket, who chaired the sixth International Conference of the Jewish Media, celebrated his birthday on the opening night of the conference in the presence of over 150 participants, WZO colleagues, several diplomats, Knesset members and would-be Knesset members. But Leket's more memorable birthday celebration was this week in Amman, where he and a delegation of 60 Jewish journalists were received at the royal palace by King Hussein.

Leket, who was the first WZO representative to officially meet the ruler of the Hashemite Kingdom, presented him with a gift of silver Doves of Peace created by Jerusalem artist Sam Philippe. At the rate that he's collecting doves of peace, the king will soon be able to start his own flock. An aside to the story is that there was some kind of mix-up between the palace and the WZO. When the king was initially ready to greet them, Leket and his delegation were in Petra and unsuitably attired for the occasion. Another arrangement was made, and something else went amiss. Finally, a late-afternoon time was scheduled, and again it was a case of the best-laid plans... so the buses just circled around until they received word to return to the palace. At the time they were at Mount Nevo from where Moses looked out over the Promised Land.

ONE OF the last wannabes to sign up on the Likud list is Yael Amishav, whose husband David Medved gave her the choice of a new car or seed money for her election campaign. She chose the latter.

PEOPLE ON the hustings know that in order to grab the attention of the audience one should always start with a good story. Which probably explains why master storyteller Yossi Alif is busier than usual. With elections drawing ever closer, Alif's stable of politicians who want to learn how to captivate the public is growing.

COMMENTING on the Likud/Isomet marriage destined for divorce, entertainer Danny Sanderson said: "Bibi and Rafel. It sounds like a steakhouse for soldiers."

ONE OF the things which prepared him for ecumenical work, recounted Rabbi David Rosen, the Anti-Defamation League's Director of Interfaith Relations, was his work as a marriage counselor in a community congregation. He finds that attachments to Jerusalem by members of the three great faiths are not that far removed from those of marriage partners to their homes and joint possessions.

Garinim-spitting champ wins in seedy contest

The making of a cultural hero

RACHEL NEIMAN

GARINIM or roasted sunflower seeds, that traditional Israeli snack, are now also trivia for the ages. Remember this date: February 5, 1996. That's when the first garinim-cracking champion of Israel — and the world — was named.

A lackadaisical crowd at Ramat Gan's Ayalon Mall gathered around the stage, where the contestants leaned uncomfortably against bright yellow railings. They would probably have been more comfortable sitting on them.

The mall and cosponsor Pitzhei Yerushalayim posted the prize of a NIS 1,000 gift certificate, good at all Ayalon Mall stores. Furthermore, the event was to be monitored "by a representative of the Guinness Book of World Records." What better way to spend the end of Tu Bishvat? Plenty of people were waiting for the action to begin at 6:30, mostly mothers and babies; fortunately, few of them carried cellular phones.

After the requisite 15-minute delay, the competition opened. Brother emcees Nati and Doron Ravitz failed the number test: they couldn't get Israelis — for whom hand-clapping is a Pavlovian response to music — to put their hands together in time to the mood music: a recent remake of "Living Next Door to Alice."

The crowd was supposed to cheer 17 men and three women competing in groups of five. On stage were five settings, each set with two bowls: one empty and one filled with a pre-measured amount of roasted sunflower seeds. The Ravitzes read out the rules: crack as many as possible within five minutes, at the end of which each contestant's area would be examined. No shells or seeds could be left on the table or the floor. Messy eating would automatically disqualify the contestant.

This seemed unnatural and unfair to some. They were also not too happy with the starting position of keeping their hands under the table. Contestants pretended not to hear that rule, but lawyer Yitzhak Kira — representing the local representatives of the Guinness Book of World Records — was insistent.

Doron Ravitz reread the rules in the obligatory American, Arabic and Hebrew accents, and it was time to begin.

Interestingly, most contestants were professional people who made their livings from day jobs, cracking garinim in their spare time.

Avi from Bat Yam was a marketing manager who had read about the competition. Didi a clothes manufacturer from Tel Aviv heard about it on the radio, marketing man Yehuda read about it in the paper.

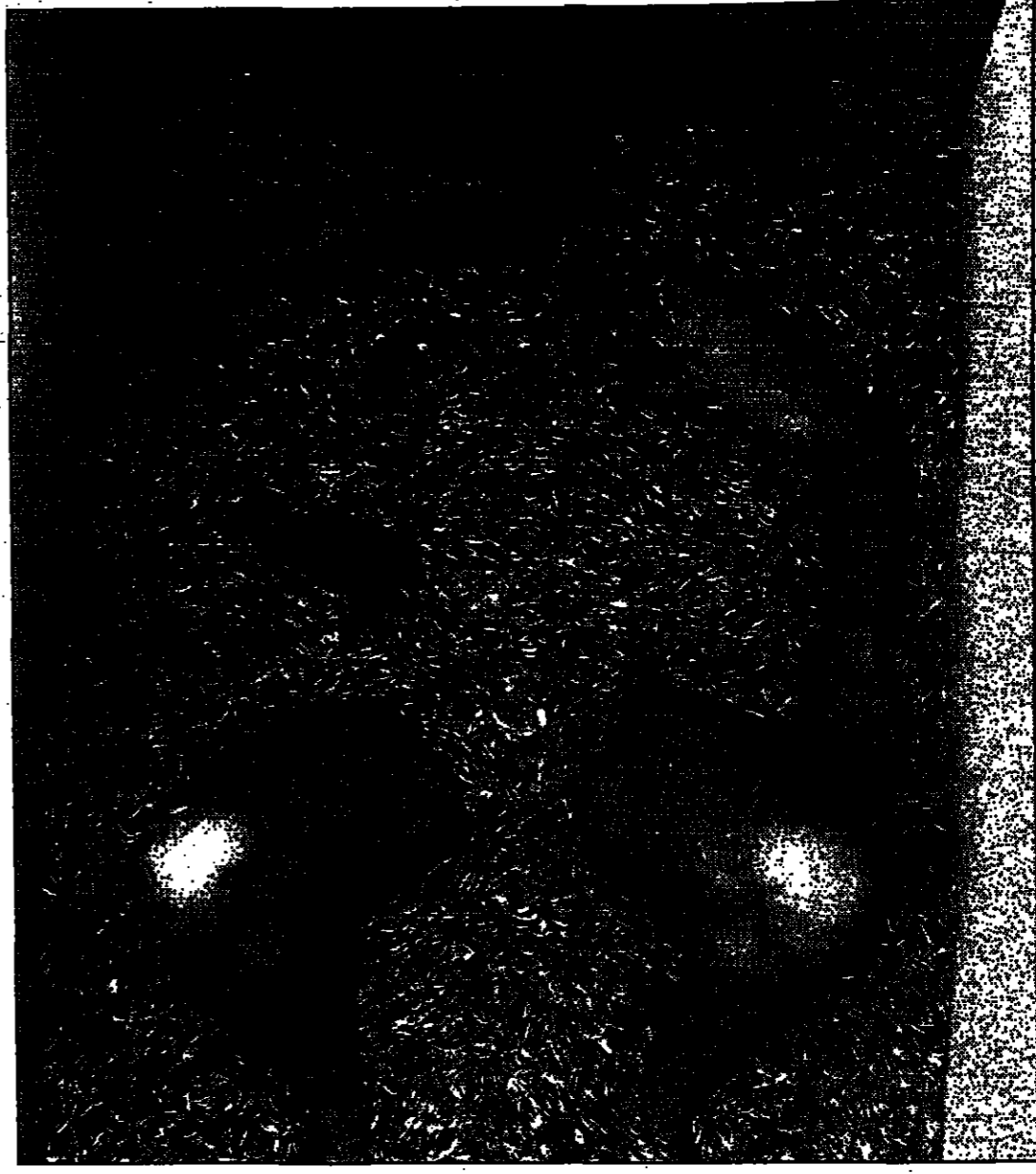
The last contestant in the first group would only identify himself by the initials G.A. and said what he did was enjoy life. The Ravitz brothers immediately dubbed him "G.A. from the GSS."

"And now, ladies and gentlemen! Only in Israel! Only in Ramat Gan! This night will be recorded in history! The garinim competition is now to begin!"

"One, two, three... go!" There is nothing that brings out an Israeli's ugly character more than having someone before him who is totally engrossed in doing something. It doesn't matter what the activity is, as long as it's an opportunity to hurl comments and try to break the other's concentration.

With the garinim competition's start what you had was the Ravitz boys, suddenly not the center of attention and still unable to get people to clap their hands. They tried, but what came naturally: bug the contestants. "Wake up, wake up, wake up!" Nati shouted.

"The Jordanian, Lebanese and Syrian TV stations are all here," Doron shouted. "All eyes of the Middle East are on you." Jewish



Breakfast of champions: As this promo photo shows, you can chew 'em, spit 'em or bathe in 'em.

gnit was rife. "Riki, you have to finish them this week," Nati admonished, rapping his forefinger on the table.

"If you don't crack them any faster, we won't give you any water!" Doron said. This gave Nati an idea. "Ooh, are they going to be thirsty," he said loudly. "All that salt. Are they ever going to be thirsty!"

A photographer leapt up and took a flash photo of a hapless Yehuda, then moved onto G.A., who was doing the four-way spit. Didi seemed to have perfected the active two-hand pass:

"At the end of the first round, the judges pounced on the bowls, weighing empty shells and uncracked seeds separately in order to determine exactly how much each contestant had consumed. After a few moments it was announced: despite having been temporarily blinded, Yehuda had slowly and steadily managed to crunch his way through 18 grams.

The second group was more eclectic: Yuval from Pardes Hanna was a musician. Iris of Bat Yam, a secretary, heard about the competition through a friend. Uzi of Ramat Gan worked at the mall. Soldier Avihai of Holon said he had been practicing eating garinim for two years, and Moti — who said he was from Tel Aviv but then corrected himself, saying he was visiting from abroad where he owned a clothes shop — declared with typical yored bravado he would definitely win.

They too learned that 15 minutes of fame comes together with 15 minutes of abuse at the hands of the media: the IDF radio correspondent stuck her mike in poor Uzi's face in order to record the sound of wet, soggy cracking and chewing. Nati speared bile over the working man, threatening unemployment, being fired or stripped of rank.

Avihai demonstrated the cupping technique, holding unopened seeds close to the mouth in his left hand, while transporting and cracking with the right. But it was self-proclaimed visitor Moti who won the round with 11 grams.

On to the third round: Shai, a cook from Kiryat Ono; Limor who didn't do anything from Givatayim; moon-faced Ovadia from Ramat Gan; kibbutznik Avi from Nahshonim. And then there was Meir from Ra'anana, a gaunt fellow with burning eyes who looked like he couldn't consume anything wider than one sunflower seed at a time.

"One, two, three... go!" Limor leaned into her plate and cracked her seeds one-handed, while Nati

promised Shai's wife she'd take home a winner. But it was not to be. Plodding Ovadia grazed his way through 20 grams.

It was men only in the fourth: Yehuda of Ramat Gan, Jerusalemite Doron, Avner the ad man from Hadera, and Moshe of Scitex. Then there was Rami of Netanya, who tried being modest but was quickly goaded by the Ravitzes into declaring to the others, "You can all go home. You're wasting your time."

By now, the audience had become like family. Nati brought a little girl onstage so she could gigglingly demonstrate "how people eat garinim in my house." He massaged the contestants' shoulders and when interfering with them got to be too dangerous, chided the audience for having insufficient spirit. The only joy in having Rami win the round was the knowledge that, at 14 grams, he was up against very stiff competition. All hoped he would climb high so as to fall from a greater height.

The final round showed a quartet of techniques — Ovadia with the

lunge and pass, Yehuda's nervous clip and chip, southpaw Moti doing the opposite of everyone else and hoarding shells chipmunk-style in his cheeks. Rami (a messy eater) used the cupping method but so badly that throughout the 10 minutes he was constantly threatened with disqualification by a dissatisfied Kira.

Although Moti was the crowd favorite, he came in third with 33 grams. Ovadia was second with 45 grams. Yehuda Nagri was named sunflower-seed-cracking champion of the world with a whopping 51 grams.

As for Nagri's place in history, the contest promoters exaggerated a little-bit about the Guinness thing. There is no sunflower-seed category, although a precedent has been set with a melon-seed spitting world record in the US. If it's accepted as a category, Nagri's name might appear, but only in the Hebrew language-version of Guinness. If not, it is our collective responsibility to remember Yehuda Nagri's achievement for the sake of our unofficial national pastime.

THE ISRAEL - CANADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

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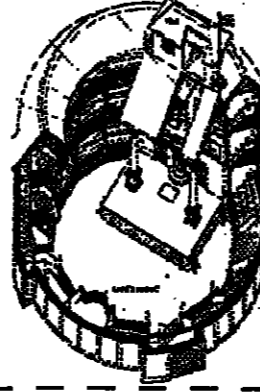
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Syria calls on US to normalize links to help peace

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Syria yesterday called on the US to normalize relations between the two countries to help the peace talks succeed. Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said in Beirut that Washington must have "normal" ties with Damascus, which it accuses of sponsoring terrorism, if the talks are to succeed.

PERES (Continued from Page 1) who will be heading the new Third Way list, confirmed that he held talks with Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, though he would not specify the content. Third Way founder Yehuda Harel is also reported to have taken part in some of the consultations.

According to some reports, the aim was to secure Third Way endorsement for Netanyahu's candi-

Maccabi stays alive with impressive win at Zagreb

MACCABI Tel Aviv defeated hosts Cibona Zagreb 78-71 last night to stay alive in the quest for a quarterfinal berth in the European Club Championships. Panathinaikos's 72-69 victory over visiting Buckler Bologna last night means that Maccabi will advance to the quarter-finals if next Thursday - in the last week of the final pool - it beats Panathinaikos at Yad Eliahu, Bologna loses to visiting Real Madrid and Cibona defeats hosts Pau-Orthez.

only 30% (6-20) of their shots from behind the arc after bringing a 39.6% team average into the game. For Maccabi, Chambers had 22. Curcic 18, Leaf 13, Oded Katsch 12 and Devon Jamchoe 7, including the team's only three-point shot of the night - which came midway through the second half when Cibona held a 52-47 lead.

European Club Championships Group B table with columns: Rank, Team, W, L, Pts. Rows include Barcelona, Panathinaikos, Real Madrid, Pau-Orthez, Buckler Bologna, Cibona Zagreb, and Benfica Lisbon.

UEFA's changes keeping European soccer afloat

GENEVA (Reuters) - UEFA president Lennart Johansson knows how commander Jim Lovell of the ill-fated Apollo 13 mission must have felt. Relief was etched all over his face after Wednesday's extraordinary day of deliberations with 33 of the continent's top clubs when he realized UEFA had found enough sticky tape to keep the European soccer spaceship flying - for now.

al, step-by-step process. We cannot afford to make any mistakes. What is vitally important is that any superleague would have to run in conjunction with domestic leagues. UEFA know they would face an outcry from the smaller clubs if there was a self-contained superleague as they would lose their most attractive, and lucrative, annual league games with the big crowd-pulling teams.

Whalers continue to improve

VANCOUVER (AP) - NHL fans know what kind of a season the Pittsburgh Penguins and Colorado Avalanche are having, but has anyone noticed the Hartford Whalers recently? Since the new year, the suddenly revived Whalers are 10-4-1, including Wednesday night's 5-3 victory at Vancouver.

run improved their record to 21-25-6. That put them 10th in the Eastern Conference - two spots away from a playoff position. Geoff Sanderson and Nelson Emerson had scored the first two goals of the third period for the Whalers.

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Handwritten text at the bottom of the page.

76ers surprise Pacers 102-101

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jerry Stackhouse scored 30 points and Derrick Alston added a career-high 24 as the Philadelphia 76ers surprised the Indiana Pacers 102-101 Wednesday night.

Clarence Weatherspoon had 20 points for Philadelphia, which had lost 11 of its previous 12 games. Mark Jackson had 20 points for the Pacers, who had won nine of their last 10 and had beaten Philadelphia seven straight times.

Reggie Miller had 19 points and Rik Smits 17 for Indiana, which at 31-16 is off to its best start ever.

Bulls 99, Warriors 95
Visiting Chicago got back on track as Michael Jordan's 40 points and 11 rebounds rallied them. Jordan had 15 points in the final period as the Bulls came back from a 15-point third-quarter deficit.

The Bulls' consecutive losses at Denver and Phoenix came after an 18-game winning streak.

Joe Smith had 23 points and 20 rebounds for Golden State.

Lakers 106, Nets 96
Johnson had 18 points, nine rebounds and eight assists as the Lakers won for the 11th time in 13 games. Their five games with Johnson were played in a span of just nine days.

The Lakers led 98-94 when Johnson made the game's key shot, a 3-pointer as the 24-second clock expired with 1:20 remaining.

"You know I was going to hit one," Johnson said. "When I hit it, I said, 'I finally hit one. Thank you.'"

Elden Campbell had 19 points and 10 rebounds for L.A. Chris Childs had 20 points and a career-high 17 assists for visiting New Jersey.

Knicks 87, Bulls 82
Patrick Ewing scored 31 points and reserve Hubert Davis continued his hot shooting for host New York.

Ewing scored 19 points in the first half and Davis added 10 in the fourth quarter as the Knicks won for the sixth time in seven games and defeated Washington for the 11th time in their last 12 meetings.

Davis finished with 18 points.

Heat 101, Hawks 89
Host Miami won consecutive games for the first time since December 3 as Alonzo Mourning scored 36 points, Rex Chapman and Elton Cole added 16 apiece for the Heat, who scored 100 points for the second consecutive game for the first time since December 6.

Pistons 97, Magic 83
Allan Houston scored 31 points and the Detroit defense turned in a record fourth quarter for host Detroit, holding the Magic to a club-low one point and seven points. It was the lowest quarter ever for Orlando, breaking the mark of 10 points. It also was the worst field goal quarter in club history; the previous low was three.

The previous best for Detroit's defense was a low of eight points, last accomplished in 1992.



Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson is stopped by Toronto's Tony Massenburg (r) and Willie Anderson (l) during Wednesday night's game in Toronto.

The Magic went without a field goal after Shaquille O'Neal's basket with 11:14 remaining. They shot 1-for-16 for the quarter.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:
Milwaukee 93, Toronto 88
San Antonio 99, Boston 89
New York 87, Washington 82
Philadelphia 102, Indiana 101
Miami 101, Atlanta 89
Detroit 97, Orlando 83
Portland 103, Minnesota 93
Utah 102, Vancouver 79
Houston 110, L.A. Clippers 102
L.A. Lakers 106, New Jersey 96
Chicago 99, Golden State 96

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division					Midwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Orlando	34	14	.708	San Antonio	31	14	.689		
New York	30	18	.622	Utah	32	15	.680		
Washington	22	28	.438	Houston	31	18	.633		
Miami	22	28	.438	Denver	19	27	.413		
New Jersey	18	28	.391	Dallas	15	30	.333		
Boston	17	30	.362	Milwaukee	13	32	.289		
Philadelphia	8	36	.200	Golden State	21	26	.447		
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Chicago	42	5	.894	Seattle	34	12	.739		
Indiana	31	16	.660	L.A. Lakers	28	19	.596		
Cleveland	28	20	.583	Sacramento	24	19	.558		
Atlanta	25	21	.543	Portland	24	24	.500		
Detroit	23	22	.511	Phoenix	21	24	.467		
Charlotte	21	24	.467	Golden State	21	26	.447		
Milwaukee	18	27	.400	L.A. Clippers	16	31	.340		
Jazz	13	34	.277						

Davis Cup team takes on Norway today

ISRAEL faces one of its sternest tests on the tennis court in recent years this weekend at Ramat Hasharon as the national Davis Cup team takes on Norway for the right to challenge for a place in the 1997 World Group.

The Israeli challenge will be Eyal Ran, the new Israeli No. 1 singles racket (170 in the IBM/ATP world singles rankings), who today plays in the second match on court against Norwegian No. 2 Helge Koll (753).

Should Behr lose, the pressure will be on Ran's shoulders as he will seek to gain a vital first point for Israel today against Koll. Captain Shlomo Glickstein will only name his doubles team after the singles are over, but his preferred duo appears again, to be Ran and Behr. In any event, he has the option of calling upon big-serving Eyal Erlich and Davis Cup newcomer Harel Levy, should he choose to do so.

Top local clubs play away

THE top three National League sides all have away fixtures against lower-placed sides in this weekend's action, but with two of the three having an unsettled time in their ranks, it is far from certain that they will gain the results they are looking for.

Leader Maccabi Tel Aviv takes on mid-table Bnei Yehuda, who slaughtered Betar Tel Aviv 6-1 last weekend. Maccabi, on the other hand, is managing only narrow wins over their rivals, last week its 1-0 victory over Iron Rishon earned the team few accolades and much criticism from their supporters. They will need to show much better form against Bnei Yehuda if they want to hold onto the league lead.

Second-placed Betar Jerusalem is ready to pounce if Maccabi should falter, its away fixture at Maccabi Petah Tikva looks to be a fairly comfortable one on paper, but the Petah Tikvans are renowned for causing upsets, so the Jerusalemites had better watch out.

'Brazilian connection' to the rescue

LONDON (AP) — When Brazilian star Juninho joined Middlesbrough four months ago, the club was on the climb.

Manchester United against defending champion Blackburn, which has climbed to sixth after a run of solid performances.

Chelsea visits Coventry, Everton welcomes Manchester City. Arsenal goes to Nottingham Forest and Sheffield Wednesday hosts Wimbledon.

NFL owners discuss fate of Browns, Seahawks

CHICAGO (Reuter) — National Football League owners begin two days of meetings in Chicago yesterday during which the fate of the Cleveland Browns and the team's proposed move to Baltimore may be decided.

Israeli golfers receive invitations to Moroccan tournament

IT'S not every day that Israel receives a royal invitation, and from an Arab State, to boot. "I'm glad and honored for the participation of your country in the 27th Hassan II Golf Challenge International Amateur Championships of Morocco," wrote the First Vice President of the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation, Abdessa de el Gaoui to the President of the Israeli Golf Association.

LOCAL SCENE
HEATHER CHAIT
Money talks
On the subject of money and its purse-strings — Deputy Minister of Education and Sport Micha Goldman met yesterday with the Sports Federation of Israel heads.

Following their leaders While their older generation is making a splash in the World Cup in Europe, the national youth swimming team is now in Germany for a competition.

The Israel Center and The Jerusalem Post present

Joe Hoffman
Sports Editor of The Jerusalem Post

"The Golden Age of Jewish Baseball"

Hosted and moderated by a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame

Don't miss it!

AROUND THE HORN

Expos reach two-year deal with Segui
First baseman David Segui and the Montreal Expos agreed Wednesday to a two-year deal worth about \$3 million shortly after their arbitration hearing in Chicago.

ON TUESDAY — SPORTS DAY IN THE JERUSALEM POST

The Cricket World Cup preview and all the latest NBA, NHC and British Soccer News, in the 12-page supplement, *The World of Sport*.

DON'T MISS IT!

Winfield announces retirement

NEW YORK (AP) — Twenty-three-year veteran Dave Winfield announced his retirement from baseball yesterday, saying a shoulder injury would keep him coming back in time for pre-season spring training.



working long and hard, I won't be able to make it back for 1996. ... It's time for me to leave the game I love so much."

Career statistics

Season	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
1973 SD	141	9	39	3	12	.277
1974 SD	498	57	132	20	75	.267
1975 SD	548	74	136	15	86	.267
1976 SD	482	81	139	13	69	.283
1977 SD	615	104	169	25	82	.276
1978 SD	587	88	161	24	97	.286
1979 SD	577	87	164	34	119	.300
1980 SD	597	89	154	20	87	.276
1981 NYY	388	52	114	13	66	.294
1982 NYY	335	41	97	10	59	.289
1983 NYY	396	59	109	12	75	.285
1984 NYY	367	46	93	19	100	.240
1985 NYY	633	105	174	26	114	.275
1986 NYY	365	50	148	24	104	.282
1987 NYY	575	83	158	27	97	.275
1988 NYY	593	86	160	25	107	.282
1989 NYY	61	7	13	1	6	.213
1990 NYY	414	63	114	19	72	.275
1991 Cal	568	75	149	28	86	.282
1992 Tor	583	82	169	26	108	.290
1993 Min	547	72	148	21	76	.271
1994 Min	294	35	74	10	43	.252
1995 Cle	115	11	22	2	4	.191
Totals	11,003	1,669	3,110	465	1,833	.283

Padres, his 10-year contract with the Yankees — a deal that turned out to be worth just over \$17 million — made him a celebrity.

'GSS interrogation law unlikely to pass this Knesset'

EVELYN GORDON and news agencies

A NEW law regulating the General Security Service, particularly its interrogation methods, is unlikely to be passed by the current Knesset because of early elections, Justice Minister David Liba'i said yesterday, at a meeting with the secretary-general of Amnesty International, Pierre Sane.

Though a draft of the bill has been publicized, it has not yet been presented to the cabinet, since the government first wants to hear reactions from lawyers, academics, and human rights groups, and possibly make changes on the basis of their recommendations.

Sane said Israel is unique in its attempt to go "into so much detail to specify how you can exercise forms of torture."

"It is sinister," he told reporters. "If passed, this law would set a precedent internationally. We can just try and imagine if all governments were to follow this path, then it would mean a serious, serious setback for the advancement of human rights worldwide."

Liba'i also insisted that Israel has made "a great contribution" to Palestinian human rights by withdrawing from the major Arab cities of Judea and Samaria, so that now most Palestinian suspects will be interrogated by the Palestinian Preventive Security Service rather than the GSS. However, he failed to explain why, given persistent reports of gross human rights abuses by the PPSS, this should constitute an improvement in the human rights situation.

Liba'i and Sane are slated to have another meeting on Sunday.

save innocent lives, and is therefore justified. More than 160 Israelis have been killed in terror attacks in the past two years.

"It is also the task of the Israeli government to protect the rights of innocent people," he said. "The only measure we have to contain the threats of the terrorists' activities is giving the GSS some powers."

The bill states that the permissible methods of interrogation will be determined by the prime minister, with the approval of a ministerial committee and a special Knesset committee. The list will not be made public, but it will presumably be subject to judicial review.

Amnesty and other human rights groups have charged that the GSS currently uses methods such as hooding with dirty sacks, shackling in painful positions for prolonged periods, beatings, sleep deprivation, and confinement in dark, closet-sized cells. It also says the use of force is not reserved for exceptional cases.

Liba'i also insisted that Israel has made "a great contribution" to Palestinian human rights by withdrawing from the major Arab cities of Judea and Samaria, so that now most Palestinian suspects will be interrogated by the Palestinian Preventive Security Service rather than the GSS. However, he failed to explain why, given persistent reports of gross human rights abuses by the PPSS, this should constitute an improvement in the human rights situation.

Liba'i and Sane are slated to have another meeting on Sunday.

Artificial insemination rules eased for single women

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry decided yesterday not to discriminate against single women who want a sperm donation by requiring they undergo a psychiatric examination.

Until now, married women who wanted to get pregnant by artificial insemination had to pass only a social worker's assessment, while single women needed a psychiatric assessment as well.

The decision followed the filing of a petition Wednesday to the High Court of Justice by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel against the extra requirements imposed on single women. ACRI asked the court to force Health Ministry Director-General Meir Oren to approve a semen donation to a single lesbian woman without preconditions. Forcing her to get a psychiatric

assessment constituted discrimination on the basis of personal status and sexual preference, ACRI argued.

ACRI acted on behalf of Dr. Tal Y., a lesbian who has been living for seven years with her lover. Each one of the women has a child born as a result of an anonymous semen donation and the children live with them. They decided they wanted another child, and applied to the Kirya Hospital in Tel Aviv for a sperm-bank donation; but the director said that according to ministry regulations, the would-be mother would have to pass a psychiatric exam.

ACRI argued at the court hearing on Wednesday that Knesset legislation is needed to ensure equal access to fertility treatments.

State fights criminal's release

THE High Court of Justice will rule next week on the state's petition against the early release of leading underworld figure Nissim Alperon.

At a hearing yesterday, the state argued that Alperon, released on

May 31 with 26 months to go of his eight-year sentence, is still a hard-core criminal.

Evelyn Gordon



Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir (right) chats with Lulu Levy, of Moshav Mash'ei, at a day-care center for senior citizens during a visit to the Ashkelon Coast Regional Council yesterday. Namir pledged her ministry would completely refurbish the center.

Histadrut to banks: Close Fridays or face strike

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut is threatening to strike banks if they do not stop operating on Fridays as of March 1, whether the respective bank managements agree or not.

The workers' unions of Bank Discount and the First International Bank announced yesterday they intend to close all their bank branches on Fridays starting March 1, as part of the transition to a five-day work week, even if the agreements to this effect with the managements are not signed yet.

However, Bank Leumi's workers insist on closing Sundays, instead of Fridays, and the bank's union chairman, Louis Roth, said Bank Leumi will not join the labor dispute or strike in the banks that do not close on March 1.

The Consumers Council also

opposes the banks' closing on Fridays and demands they remain open six days a week, even if their workers move to a five-day week. The council's surveys indicate that most consumers prefer to settle all their banking affairs on Friday, which is a day off for most.

MK David Mena (Likud) is heading an acting committee consisting of the large labor unions, the Consumers Council, and Bank Leumi workers' union, which is campaigning to change the banks' closing day to Sunday. Mena said he has presented a bill to the Knesset compelling the banks to render services from Monday to Friday.

The head of the bank division in

the Histadrut, Zion Shema, reiterated the Histadrut's stand that all the banks must close on the same day of the week. He said yesterday the issue was brought to the decision of the bank commissioner, who recommended Friday as the day on which all bank branches should be closed.

At this stage, none of the banks has signed an agreement with their managements to close down on Friday. Bank Hapoalim's workers have a written understanding with the management to this effect, pending the decision of the official in charge of business restrictions.

The latter is due to decide in the next few days whether closing all banks on Friday is a restrictive agreement, which is against the law.

Motorcycle unit to monitor bus security

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE Transport Ministry has begun to employ a new security unit made up of security officers who survey roads and bus stops on motorcycles, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar said yesterday.

The new unit is part of an effort to increase the mobility of security units and increase the ability to prevent terror attacks, Kessar said. The security officers, who served in combat units, are to survey travelers and question those who look suspicious.

Ministry security head Dani Shinar said the motorcycle security unit would increase the ability of the security apparatus to foil terror attacks.

In addition to the motorcycle unit, dozens of security agents work on the nation's transportation lines, monitoring buses, bus stops, and central bus stations.

The ministry also said that a campaign would soon begin to recruit retirees to work for the Egged and Dan bus companies.

WEATHER

Golan	8-14
Haifa	11-18
Tiberias	11-20
Alula	10-19
Samaria	8-16
Tel Aviv	12-19
Jerusalem	8-16
Beer Sheva	12-20
Dead Sea	16-24
Eilat	19-23

Forecast: Partly cloudy and hazy. Sand storms in the south. Lower temperatures. Possibility of rain. Shabbat: Rain. Drop in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Weather
Amsterdam	5-9	10-14	partly cloudy
Berlin	4-8	9-13	clear
Buenos Aires	16-19	20-24	clear
Calcutta	24-28	30-34	rain
Chicago	15-18	20-24	rain
Copenhagen	6-10	11-15	cloudy
Frankfurt	6-10	11-15	cloudy
Helsinki	3-7	8-12	cloudy
Hong Kong	13-17	18-22	clear
London	7-11	12-16	clear
Los Angeles	13-17	18-22	clear
Madrid	10-14	15-20	partly cloudy
Moscow	4-8	9-13	partly cloudy
New York	15-19	20-24	partly cloudy
Osaka	13-17	18-22	rain
Paris	10-14	15-20	rain
Seoul	13-17	18-22	rain
Sydney	10-14	15-20	rain
Tokyo	13-17	18-22	rain
Warsaw	4-8	9-13	cloudy
Zurich	5-9	10-14	cloudy

'Country's planning policies outdated'

LIAT COLLINS

THE National Planning Administration and its policies are outdated and in need of a complete revision. Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said yesterday. "Concepts change and approaches change, and national outline plans do not meet current realities," Sarid said during an address celebrating 10 years of the Ashdod Regional Association of Towns.

Sarid said many planning and construction projects are based on outline plans prepared years ago.

"We must change the entire concept of planning in Israel, instead of always fighting one project or another," Sarid said. He also spoke against construc-

tion along the shores of Lake Kinneret and the Mediterranean Sea. "We have only one Kinneret and one Mediterranean and there'll never be another," he said. Sarid said many countries had built hotels on seafrosts "only to find later that no seashore remained and the tourists stopped coming." He spoke of possible opportunities opening up because of the peace process, including buying electricity from neighboring countries. "The quality of life in Israel and pace of economic

growth afford the country the possibility of deciding what industrial plants it wants within its borders and which it doesn't want. Israel can be more selective," he said. The ministry and environmental groups are celebrating the end of Nature Protection Week with free guided tours at many national parks and nature reserves.

"By running free tours we hope the public will show it still loves the landscape, which is ever-shrinking," said Orit Nevo, spokeswoman for the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel.

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